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MARCH 1942



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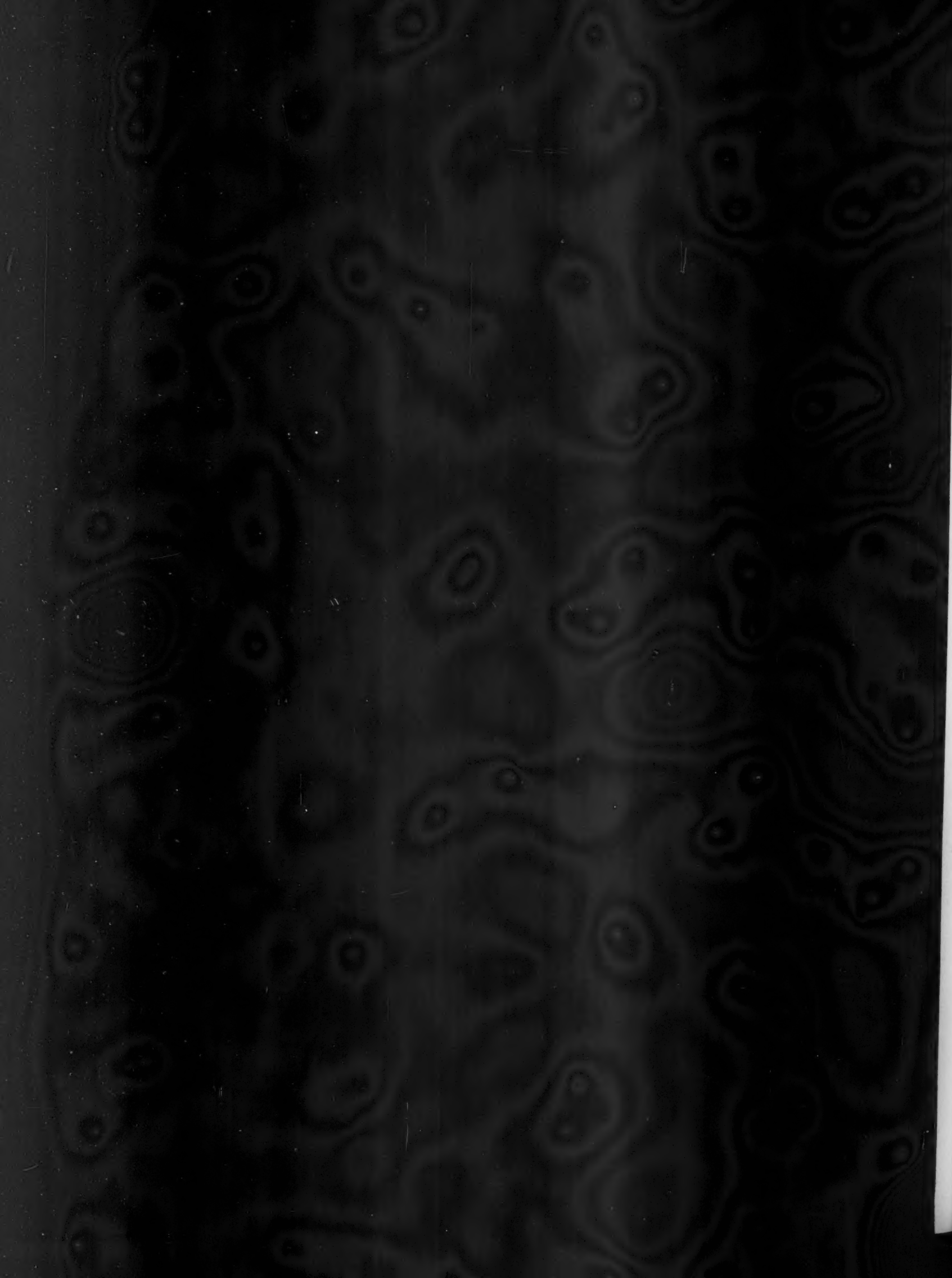
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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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Volume XXIII

MARCH, 1942

Number 10

Cattle Production and Marketing in West

By Mont H. Saunderson

Economist, United States Forest Service

THE SEVEN WESTERN STATES*

of the United States, considered as a group, are now a deficit area in beef production. This is due to the meat requirements of the west coast population centers. The two deficit states are California and Washington, and the beef production deficit of these states is large enough to influence beef cattle production and marketing throughout these seven states and the western part of the Rocky Mountain states. This situation has an important bearing upon the management of western ranges, particularly the summer ranges which produce the grass-finished beef that still accounts for a large proportion of western slaughter.

The comparison of western states beef production and consumption given in

table 1 shows that the seven western states as a group are now producing annually approximately 667,000,000 pounds, dressed weight, of beef and veal, and that the consumption of these states is around 798,000,000 pounds. This is a deficit of 16 per cent. The above annual consumption figure for these states is based upon an average per capita beef and veal consumption of 70 pounds.

This consumption figure was derived for the seven western states for 1940 on the basis of their estimated dressed weight production of beef and veal, plus shipments into these states, principally from Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas. This same figure of 70 pounds per capita is obtained for the State of California for 1940 by totaling the figures of 1940 inspected slaughter and the USDA Agricultural Market-

ing Service estimates of uninspected slaughter and local farm slaughter, and dividing by the 1940 population figure. This per capita consumption figure of 70 pounds is somewhat above the national per capita average, which was 62½ pounds. The national per capita beef consumption in 1941 was approximately 69 pounds, and if the per capita consumption of the western states in 1941 was above the national figure to the same extent as in 1940, the 1941 deficit of the seven western states was greater than that shown in table 1. The data are not yet available to determine this.

Relation of Deficit to Western Beef Production and Marketing

Due to the fact that the seven western states are a deficit area in beef produc-

* Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah, and Idaho.



Forest Service Photo

Good upland summer cattle range. Its highest value is for the finishing of beef for western markets.

tion, there is little eastward movement of cattle from this area. There is some eastward shipment of feeder animals from the eastern parts of Idaho, Utah, and Arizona, but this amounts to only a small part of the market movement of beef cattle for these states in the aggregate. Annual market shipments by growers, with the present beef cattle population of these seven states, are from 1,300,000 to 1,600,000 head. Approximately one-half of these annual shipments are steers, one-third are cows, and the remainder are calves.

The annual movement to feed-lots in the feeding centers of these states is 300,000 to 400,000 head, equal to about one-fourth of the shipments made by growers. Some of this movement to feeding centers is, however, accounted for by the in-shipment of feeder animals from New Mexico and Texas to the San Joaquin Valley of California, and the growers of the seven western states actually have a smaller western market for feeder animals than the above figures would indicate. There was a movement of approximately 240,000 head of cattle from Texas and New Mexico to California in 1940, and of these 55,000 were calves that went to the feeding centers.

In addition to the feed-lot finishing in the feeding centers of the seven western states, there are some "warming up" feeding operations, principally by the growers, but the available information indicates that this equals only 5 or 10 per cent of the annual shipments made by growers.

The 1940 and 1941 figures indicate that about three-fourths of the shipments by growers in the seven western states go direct from ranges and pastures to the western slaughter markets during the summer and fall months. These direct shipments are principally two-year-old steers and cows. The animals that are finished in the feeding centers are largely yearlings and calves,

but there is also considerable short-period feeding of two-year-old steers and cows. Due to the limited supply of feeds adapted to fattening in some of the western feeding centers, the highest value of these feeds is for finishing animals that have made most of their growth on range and pasture.

Transition Zone in Marketing and Type of Production

An analysis of the marketing information indicates that most of the 300,000 to 400,000 head of cattle needed annually to meet the beef production deficit of the seven western states is drawn from the western parts of the Rocky Mountain states and from western Texas, and as a result the beef cattle production and marketing of the western parts of the Rocky Mountain states is very similar to that of the intermountain states; that is, the production of grass-finished beef for the western slaughter markets. However, there is also a considerable eastward movement of feeder animals from the western parts of the Rocky Mountain states.

Due to this influence of the western markets upon the western beef cattle producing sections of the Rocky Mountain states, there is a fairly definite "transition zone," in marketing and type of production, about one-fourth of the distance east from the western boundaries of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. East of this transition zone the production is principally feeder animals for the mid-western markets. Feeder calves and yearlings account for most of the shipments, other than cows, by growers in the plains sections of the Rocky Mountain states.

Relation of Production and Marketing Situation to Range Management

This beef cattle production and marketing situation of the seven western states and the western sections of the Rocky Mountain states has a direct bearing upon the management program

of growers in the use of their ranges and fall pastures. The beef supply of these states must come from western growers and feeders. The alternative is an increased movement of western feeder animals to the corn-growing states for finishing and the shipment of dressed beef to the western consuming centers. There is now some such movement of dressed beef, but it is not a very large factor in meeting the deficit of these seven states. This is a costly source of western beef supply, since long freight hauls are necessary. We have pointed out that the western feeding centers can fatten only a limited number of the cattle produced by western growers, and, while the western feeding capacity may be considerably increased by expansion of western irrigation development, the most important present source of western beef supply appears to be the direct-to-slaughter shipments of western growers.

The western range beef producer with a summer range that can be managed so as to turn off fat steers of a grade and quality fairly comparable to feed-lot-finished animals should be able to realize a considerable price differential above the price of a feeder animal or of a medium-quality slaughter animal. This is due to the limited capacity of western feeding centers and the necessity for direct-to-slaughter shipment of a high proportion of the cattle marketed from the ranges and fall pastures of the seven western states. Two-year-old steers that are well finished on range and pasture do not have to compete with feed-lot-fattened animals in the western slaughter markets nearly so much as they do in the mid-western markets.

We can likely anticipate some increase in preference on the part of western consumers for good-to-choice beef compared with medium-quality animals from ranges and pastures. This would result in a stronger price differential in favor of the better-quality range and pasture finished animals, and the price advantage in the western markets for such animals may soon approximate the freight cost of shipping feed-lot-finished beef from Middle West packing centers to west coast consuming centers.

The principal means by which good range and pasture management by western growers can realize this price advantage appear to be:

1. Moderate stocking of the better summer ranges and using them primarily as finishing ranges for market animals.
2. Marketing of fat animals from summer ranges sufficiently early—before the loss in nutritive value of range forage has an adverse effect upon the rate of gain and the "bloom" of the market animals.
3. Moving the market animals from the range to meadow and aftermath pasture as early as possible for finishing where they cannot be finished on the range.

TABLE 1.—BEEF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION IN THE ELEVEN WESTERN STATES, 1941.

STATES	Beef Production in Pounds of Live Weight	Beef Production in Pounds of Dressed Weight	Beef Consumption in Pounds of Dressed Weight
Arizona	225,000,000	112,500,000	34,930,000
California	434,000,000	217,000,000	483,000,000
Idaho	172,000,000	86,000,000	36,750,000
Oregon	201,000,000	100,500,000	76,230,000
Nevada	77,000,000	38,500,000	7,700,000
Utah	90,000,000	45,000,000	38,500,000
Washington	136,000,000	68,000,000	121,500,000
Seven Western states...	1,335,000,000	667,500,000	798,610,000
Colorado	370,000,000	185,000,000	78,600,000
Montana	305,000,000	152,500,000	39,200,000
New Mexico.....	299,000,000	149,500,000	36,750,000
Wyoming	179,000,000	89,500,000	17,370,000
Four Rocky Mt. states.	1,153,000,000	576,500,000*	171,920,000
Eleven Western states.	2,488,000,000	1,244,000,000	970,530,000

* The production surplus shown for these states is not a slaughter weight figure, due to the large eastward movement of feeder animals. The production deficit of the seven western states is a slaughter weight deficit, due to the fact that there is no important eastward feeder movement from these states.

Asks for Borrower Control and Fair Investment in Credit Law

The following is the statement of Frank S. Boice filed last October with the House Committee on Agriculture concerning H. R. 5336—a measure dealing with farm credit. Mr. Boice made the statement as chairman of the legislative committee of the American National Live Stock Association. Last January Mr. Boice was elected president of that organization at Salt Lake City.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE Stock Association, an association which represents primarily the range cattle producers of the West, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the provisions of the Farm Credit Bill—H. R. 5336.

There are reproduced here the resolutions passed at our annual conventions in 1940 and 1941 on the subject of Farm Credit legislation. A reading of these resolutions discloses that our members want the land banks continued as financially sound co-operative lending institutions, supervised according to law by an independent agency of government, and that they do not want the land banks to become government lending institutions or that their policies should be determined by the Department of Agriculture in Washington.

Upon analysis of the legislation under consideration, we find that we approve certain provisions, that we must oppose other provisions, and that we have suggestions for further amendment.

May we state in the beginning that we recognize fully the difficulty in which some of the banks and national farm loan associations find themselves. The banks which are in difficulty are there largely because of drought and the collapse in the early thirties of farm prices. These same factors contributed to the failure of associations, but there were other contributing causes, some administrative and some legal. If the banks which were able had been allowed to pay dividends, many associations would have been saved, and, also, if the associations had been allowed to reflect in their financial statements the book value of their land bank stock, many now suspended would be writing new business. There is however a fundamental defect in the set-up of the associations: they are liable for all losses occasioned by the failure of the loans of their members and they have no assured income in substantial amount. It is a very exceptional lending institution which can survive under those conditions.

Provisions Approved

Based on the above analysis of the present condition of the land banks and national farm loan associations, our as-

sociation approves those provisions of the legislation under consideration which provide for the payment by the banks to the associations of adequate compensation for the services which they perform, which provide an assured income for the associations based on the volume of their outstanding loans, which provide for the building of reserves in the associations to take care of losses, and which limit but do not remove the liability of the associations to the banks for the losses occasioned by the failure of loans of their members. As the experience of the land banks shows that they cannot operate successfully on a 1 per cent interest spread without the income from substantial amounts of free government money, we approve the proposed increase of this spread to 1½ per cent.

Our association recognizes that it is desirable that the interest rate to borrowers be based on the average cost of money to the land banks, and yet we hesitate to give our unqualified approval to this provision. May we point out the dangers involved. When the banks find it necessary to issue bonds during a period of increasing money cost, either to take care of current needs or to refinance an old bond issue, they will find themselves doing business at less than the 1½ per cent spread contemplated by this legislation. It may easily be true that new business must be taken at a loss, as the cost of the new money may greatly exceed the new average cost which will fix the new lending rate for the banks. The danger, as we see it, is that the banks may fail to do the job for which they were created if the acquisition of new business becomes unprofitable.

There is another danger involved in this provision which arises from the fact that under it the banks can issue short-term bonds. Of itself this is desirable, as it will enable the banks to use short-term money when interest rates are high and thereby keep the cost of money to themselves and to the borrowers as low as is consistent with sound financing. But the sound financing of the land banks requires a very careful balancing of the total issues of long-, medium-, and short-term bonds, and in times of stress there will certainly be pressure from farm groups and from

politically minded departments in Washington to use more and more of the short-term issues in order to reduce the borrower interest rate. Will the Farm Credit Administration resist this pressure? If this provision is enacted into law, there will be times when the responsible officials of Farm Credit will have difficulty in adhering to financial policies which they know are sound.

Member Investment Important

It is of little concern to our organization whether the land banks are set up on a capital stock or a membership basis, provided the elements which will allow them to operate as a true farmers' co-operative are included. We have no quarrel with the provisions of this bill which change the banks from capital stock to membership organizations except those which reduce member investment in the system from 5 to 2 per cent of the loan and so limit the risk involved that the member can lose only half of this investment. We must all admit that at best it is a difficult matter to hold member interest in a long-term mortgage credit co-operative. The borrower is very apt to obtain his loan and then forget the institution through which he got it. The educational program being carried out by the land banks is showing results in developing member interest, but it is not enough. The member must have a substantial financial stake in his co-operative—a stake which he can lose if the co-operative fails—if he is to take a real interest in its affairs and be active in its behalf.

The proposed decrease in the member investment in the land bank system would be a serious drain on the capital funds of the system and would greatly increase the percentage of these funds which are contributed by the government. This fact will, sooner or later, be used to justify increased governmental control and is a step in the wrong direction. Borrower control should be increased, not governmental control.

We might sum this up by saying that the 5 per cent investment funds of the members are in the system now, that they are needed in the system for reasons which seem to us decisive, and that we have heard no reason given which would justify a reduction of these funds. We are therefore unalterably opposed to the proposed reduction of the member investment from 5 to 2 per cent of the amount of his loan.

We are also opposed to the provisions of sections 10, 11, and 12 of the bill which provide for the refinancing of excessive farm indebtedness. This kind of legislation has no place in a land bank reorganization bill, as it will inevitably confuse the issues of primary importance. If these sections were standing alone in a separate bill, we should oppose it, as we feel that in operation it will tend to break down borrower morale by weakening the bor-

rower's determination to meet his obligations. Many things have happened in the past few years which tend in this direction, and we are sure that this step is not justified. The experience of the corporation in making 75 per cent loans indicates that the 100 per cent financing proposed can be nothing short of disastrous to the corporation and the taxpayer. The corporation will become the largest and most powerful landlord in the nation.

There seems to us no justification for raising the loan limit for Commissioner loans to \$50,000. The corporation was created to meet an emergency, and under the conditions existing at that time a 75 per cent loan was probably justified; but, with the passing of the emergency, active lending by the corporation should be discontinued.

Local Autonomy Necessary

Even the casual reader of this bill must be impressed by the frequent repetition of the phrase, "with the approval of the administration." The cumulative effect of this is to centralize administrative control of the system in the Washington office. Nowhere in the bill is there evidence that the framers of the bill desired to encourage or even permit local determination of policy. We believe that this nation is too big and local conditions are too diverse to permit a satisfactory administration of Farm Credit from a Washington office. Such administration will become arbitrary in its determination of policy and unresponsive to local needs. We therefore urge that any Farm Credit legislation include provision for a district Farm Credit board of nine, six of whom shall be elected by borrowers and three appointed by the governor, and a limitation of the authority of the governor in the approval of the salaries of officers of the district units so that he approves salary ranges only and not individual salaries. The phrase, "with the approval of the administration," should be used only where it is absolutely necessary for the proper supervision of the system. This will be a move in the direction of decentralization and local autonomy. Such a change is necessary if Farm Credit is to function as it should.

As long as Farm Credit is in the Department of Agriculture it will be under pressure to become in fact an "action agency" of the department by establishing lending policies which will promote the social reforms which the department thinks desirable. Congress has created numerous agencies in the Department of Agriculture whose purpose was the promotion of social reform, and has given them what it considered adequate appropriations. Farm Credit was created to furnish farmers adequate, dependable credit at the lowest possible interest rate consistent with sound financial policy. Farm Credit can do the job for which it was created

best outside the Department of Agriculture as an independent agency of government. We urge that it be restored to that status at the earliest possible date.

We find many desirable provisions in this proposed legislation; but, though we realize that the problems of the land bank system are pressing for solution, we cannot approve legislation which so drastically reduces farmer investment or does not provide for some degree of borrower control.

* * *

American National's Stand

The resolution adopted in 1940 by the American National Live Stock Association, referred to at the beginning of this statement, is quoted as follows:

"WHEREAS, The Farm Credit Administration has, by adhering to sound financial policies, provided a dependable source of credit to those engaged in agricultural pursuits and thereby won the confidence and loyalty of its borrowers; and

"WHEREAS, Through its various agencies, reaching into every rural community of the nation, it has attained a dominant position in agricultural credit; and

"WHEREAS, If the Farm Credit system is to continue adequately to serve agriculture, it is essential that the extension of credit should not be tied in with any other agricultural program and that it retain its co-operative features and independence of departmental control; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we urge that the Farm Credit Administration be immediately restored by Congress to its former status as an independent agency and that we authorize and direct our officers and legislative committee to do their utmost to attain that end."

In 1941 the American National passed the following resolution:

"WHEREAS, Fundamental changes in the federal land bank system are being advocated by the Washington officials of the Farm Credit Administration, which changes would make of the land banks government lending institutions completely controlled by federal appointees; and

"WHEREAS, It is our belief that any changes made should be in the direction of decentralized supervision and greater borrower control; therefore be it

"Resolved, That we oppose any legislation which would eliminate borrower investment in the land bank system or provide for government guarantee of federal farm loan bonds; and be it further

"Resolved, That we urge Congress to restore the Farm Credit Administration to its former status as an independent agency and authorize and direct our officers and legislative committee to direct their efforts to attain this end."

CATTLE RAISERS SHOULD SET UP 'DRAFT BOARD'

WHEN NATIONAL DEFENSE CALLS for increased manpower in the army, "draft boards" are set up in each community to select men best fitted to serve. Applied to the nation's beef herds, the same principles of "selective service" will pay cattle raisers and result in maximum efficiency in beef production, the educational service of the National Cottonseed Products Association points out.

Today's conditions offer beef producers an opportunity for careful planning that pays now and will help to prevent excessive marketings in years when demand and price conditions may be less favorable, it is declared. Especially important are the marketing of old, barren, and irregularly producing cows; adequate care and feeding of the herd during winter months to reduce or eliminate costly losses of weight; creep feeding to keep calves gaining when more gains per pound of feed can be made than during any other period; and the use of efficient, adequate rations in the feed-lot to secure maximum gains from every pound of feed.

When careful selection has eliminated inefficient animals from the farm or range herd, adequate feeding is essential to give the remaining animals the care they deserve. Cottonseed cake, supplying essential protein and phosphorus that winter grass lacks, helps to maintain productive life of the breeding herd, keep cows in condition, prevents losses in cold or dry weather, and makes earlier, stronger calves. Fall "caking" or feeding of cottonseed meal should start early enough to prevent loss of weight and condition that cannot be regained later in the winter. Continued "caking" until cows are again in calf is insurance for a high-percentage calf crop, dropped early. One to two pounds of cottonseed cake, pellets, or cubes daily per head keep range cows thrifty except during severe cold, when two or three pounds are needed.

Carefully selected herd bulls need good range or pasture. One and a half to three pounds of cottonseed cake, daily per head, will keep yearling or mature bulls in good condition. Supplemental roughage is needed when range is short. Yearling and two-year-old steers make good gains and growth and are better hustlers when fed one to three pounds of cottonseed cake, pellets, or cubes on winter range.

Farm breeding cows may be maintained in good condition during winter months on one to two pounds of cottonseed meal daily per head, seven to ten pounds of cottonseed hulls or hay, and twenty-five pounds of silage. Yearlings or two-year-olds: twenty pounds silage, ten pounds hay or hulls, and two pounds cottonseed meal. Calves: twenty pounds silage, five pounds hay or hulls, and one and one-half pounds cottonseed meal daily.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



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Your job now is to provide this country with all the fine meat it needs . . .

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You're not alone in this big job, though. Armour and Company, like the rest of the packers, stands with you.

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We're going to keep a daily cash market open for your livestock.

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Those two things will always be the most important factors in our business.

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LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR YEAR 1941

What kind of work does the legislative committee of the American National Live Stock Association do? . . . What did it accomplish in 1941? . . . Answers to such questions are found in the following report of the legislative committee of the American National Live Stock Association at the recent convention in Salt Lake City. Chairman of the committee at that time was Frank S. Boice, of Sonoita, Arizona.

AS CHAIRMAN OF YOUR LEGISLATIVE committee, I am reporting to you on those activities of your association which have not been previously covered by your president and secretary. The members of your committee, Frank S. Boice, William B. Wright, A. D. Brownfield, J. H. Nason, and George Jones, met with your president and secretary in Washington on February 13, 1941. In their activities during the succeeding ten days, they were guided by the resolutions which had been passed at the annual convention at Fort Worth. When confronted with problems on which they had no specific instructions from you, they used their own best judgment to protect and promote the welfare of the livestock industry.

Time does not permit of a detailed report on the many activities of your committee in connection with matters which were not of primary importance, but I should like to give you a report on one such activity as an example of the kind of problems continually faced.

Price Criticism Stopped

Your committee learned there was much unfavorable criticism of the retail price of beef coming from the office of Harriett Elliott, then consumer commissioner on the advisory commission to the Council of National Defense, and we felt that if such publicity continued it might easily result in meat strikes by the consumers or in consumer demand for the importation of dressed meat from South America. A conference was therefore arranged with Miss Elliott at which it was pointed out that there was a rapidly expanding meat production plant of enormous size in the United States which in 1940 produced almost 19,000,000,000 pounds of meat—the highest production figure in our history—that the price of meat to the consumer is fixed in a free, competitive market, and that the comparatively high price of beef is the direct result of the increased purchasing power of the consuming public which has resulted from the defense program. Apparently this presentation of the facts was effective, as there has been no unfavorable publicity on beef prices since the meeting.

At the annual convention at Fort Worth it was urged that further conferences be held with the acting chief of the Forest Service in the hope that a forest

bill might be worked out that would be satisfactory both to the service and the permittees. This conference was held, but your committee found no disposition on the part of the Forest Service to modify its position in the slightest degree. It was decided to redraft the old bill—S.3532—in the interest of clarity. The new bill, in all essentials the same as the old, was introduced in the Senate by Senator Johnson of Colorado and referred to the Public Lands Committee. Twice a date for hearing was set and then the hearing was postponed without giving an adequate reason. In view of the support for the bill which has developed among forest permittees, it seems reasonable to expect that a hearing will be held before very long. Your committee is continuously pressing for action on this bill.

At long last the national animal-theft bill has become law. Your committee spent much time in an effort to discover what changes in the old bill were necessary in order to secure executive approval. It was finally decided that there was reasonable hope for the bill if it were limited in its scope to cattle and carcasses thereof. Such a bill was prepared by Senator McCarran and passed the Senate. In the House the usual "chicken" amendment was added but this was eliminated in conference. The conference report was accepted by both houses of Congress and the bill was signed by the President. To Senator McCarran this association is deeply indebted for his determined fight for this much needed legislation.

Farm Credit Legislation

There have been important developments during the year in connection with Farm Credit legislation. The united opposition of the different branches of agriculture to the Wheeler-Jones bill got results. It became apparent, early in the year, that this bill could not be passed unless it was fundamentally changed. Farm Credit officials held a series of conferences with representatives of the major farm organizations in an attempt to agree on desirable legislation. This attempt was partly successful. The bill finally introduced is known as the Fullmer bill—H.R. 5336. Hearings were held during the month of October—a time when it was impossible for your representative to appear. However, at

the request of Congressman Coffee, of Nebraska, a statement of our position on the bill was prepared and placed in the record. Your association approved those sections of the bill which limit but do not remove the financial liability of the national farm loan associations and those which give to the associations an assured income; it opposed those sections of the bill which decrease borrower investment in the system; it approved certain suggested amendments which increase borrower control and decrease the possibility of policy dictation from Washington; and it advocated the restoration of Farm Credit to the status of an independent agency of government outside the Department of Agriculture. The bill is still in committee and there seems little possibility of early action. When we look back at the provisions of the Wheeler-Jones bill we realize that we have come a long way in the right direction.

A conference was held with Farm Credit officials regarding the so-called "combination loan." This term is used to describe a loan obtained from one agency of Farm Credit which accepts both the ranch and the livestock as primary security. It was agreed at this conference that applications typifying this type of loan should be submitted to production credit associations for their recommendations, routed to the Intermediate Credit Bank and the Production Credit Corporation of the district for their suggestions, and then on to Washington for their study. It was hoped that in this way a satisfactory method of handling such loans would be worked out. The livestock PCA's of the eleventh district were notified of this agreement but to date no test case has been submitted. Your committee has concluded that for the present at least there is not much demand for this type of financing by Farm Credit.

Canned Beef Deal

The South American canned beef deal has been much discussed by cattlemen and is, we think, thoroughly understood, but perhaps a brief statement is in order. When your committee arrived in Washington it was confronted with these facts: The army needed increased supplies of canned beef, the existing meat canning facilities of the nation were largely occupied in the preparation of the type "C" ration for the army, the priorities division of OPM was opposed to the building of more meat canning facilities and, unless stopped by legislation, the purchasing division of OPM was going to purchase for the army up to 20,000,000 pounds of South American canned corned beef. Donald Nelson, the head of the purchasing division, wanted our organization, which had been responsible for the prohibition against the purchase of foreign canned beef placed in the navy appropriation bill, to agree not to oppose this purchase. Your committee agreed not to oppose and in re-

MINERAL DEFICIENCY STUDIES IN SOUTH TEXAS

By LOWELL H. TASH*

turn were assured by both the army and navy that they were not interested in the importation of fresh meat from South America. In addition this conference memorandum recited the changes the army was making in its meat purchasing so that it would cover a much broader field of supply and indicated its purpose to write its meat specifications to conform to AMS grades. The one thing needed was assurance from the State Department that it would not press for ratification of the Argentine sanitary convention. Through Secretary Wickard a conference was arranged with Undersecretary Sumner Welles. We were assured by him that the question of the importation of fresh meat from Argentina was a dead issue. The position of your committee during these negotiations was a difficult one due to the fact that as an organization you have always opposed foreign purchases by the army or the navy. In addition we knew that we would not be allowed to give you the full story.

The members of your committee were intensely interested in your reaction to the agreement it had made. In my own state I found that the reaction of cattlemen to the newspaper account was something like this: "It's our committee that is making the agreement. It knows what it is doing. It must be all right." If that was your reaction when you first heard of the agreement, then we, the members of your legislative committee, are very proud of that evidence of your confidence in us and sincerely hope that nothing will ever happen to disturb it.

(The legislative committee at the time this report was given was made up of Chairman Boice, A. D. Brownfield, Deming, New Mexico; J. H. Nason, Spearfish, South Dakota; George Jones, Marfa, Texas; and William B. Wright, Deeth, Nevada. The new legislative committee is composed of Mr. Brownfield, chairman; Mr. Jones; Mr. Nason; Mr. Wright; and S. D. Sinton, San Francisco, California.—EDITOR.)

FOOD COST AND FAMILY INCOME

Food prices in December, 1941, averaged 15 per cent higher than in December, 1940, but non-farm family income averaged even higher than this percentage. Measured in terms of consumer income, foods now require a smaller share of the income than formerly—actually the smallest share in twenty-nine years of record. While foods went up 15 per cent, non-agricultural income in December, 1941, averaged 17 per cent higher than in December, 1940. In December, 1941, the average non-farm family spent 23 per cent of its income for food as compared with 27 per cent during the five years 1935-39. The highest proportion in the twenty-nine years of record was 38 per cent in 1919. The December, 1941, figure—23 per cent—was the smallest on record.

SOUTHERN TEXAS IS ONE OF THE most productive cattle sections of the state. The area is marked with an abundance of vegetation, especially in the eastern part, making it favorable to a rather heavy rate of stocking as compared with many other localities of Texas. The increase in returns, however, that would normally result from this great carrying capacity of the pastures has been reduced in many instances by the condition and size of many of the cattle produced. The introduction of improved beef breeds, particularly those breeds more adapted climatically to the region, and the careful programs of selection and breeding practiced by most ranchers have done much to improve the cattle. Nevertheless it has often been found that the cattle still fail to attain the skeletal development or condition of cattle raised in other sections unless feed other than the natural pasturage is provided. On some ranches small calf crops are the rule rather than the exception and often it is necessary to retain practically all heifer calves produced for replacements in the breeding herds. Other evidences of a nutritional deficiency in the natural vegetation are (1) a persistent craving of the cattle for bones, dirt, wood, hides, and other miscellaneous materials, (2) enlarged joints, malformed and porous bones which are often easily broken, and (3) "creeps," known scientifically as uncomplicated aphosphorosis, which occurs most often among lactating cows. The animals affected with this deficiency disease become thin and weak and show a peculiar stiff, creepy gait as though it were painful to walk.

The Bureau of Animal Industry and the Texas agricultural experiment station initiated co-operative studies in 1937 to determine what elements, necessary for the proper nutrition of cattle, were deficient in the vegetation of the area. The preliminary work consisted in the collection for chemical analyses of samples of soil and vegetation and the observation of cattle subsisting on this vegetation for symptoms of nutritional deficiencies. The observations of the cattle and the analyses of the samples collected indicated that a phosphorus deficiency of considerable consequence exists in most sections of southern Texas. This survey also resulted in other interesting and valuable information. It was found that the natural forage apparently contains sufficient calcium to satisfy the requirements of range cattle for that element and that a close relationship exists between the chemical composition of the

soil and the kinds and quality of the grasses with some species of grass having greater ability than others to obtain from the soil the chemicals needed for growth and development.

'Strong' or 'Weak' Pastures

Cattlemen often refer to a pasture or area as being "strong" or "weak" and it is both interesting and informative to observe the close correlation that exists between this description and the phosphorus content of the vegetation of those pastures and areas.

The predominant grasses of the coastal area are the tall, coarse species that are commonly known as the sage grasses or little and big bluestem (*Andropogon* sp.), joint grass (*Elyonurus tripsacoides*), carpet grass (*Axonopus compressus*), Georgia grass or honeydew (*Paspalum plicatulum*), smut grass (*Sporobolus* sp.), and needle grass (*Aristida* sp.). Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) is often associated with these taller grasses as, to a less extent, are buffalo grass (*Buchloe dactyloides*), mesquite grass (*Hilaria belangeri*), and the grama grasses (*Bouteloua* sp.). It is generally true that the tall, coarse grasses predominate on the lighter soils and in the areas of more abundant rainfall. The shorter grasses with a larger proportion of leaves are found more extensively on the heavier and more fertile soils and, with the exception of Bermuda grass, in the more arid districts. It was expected therefore that the samples of the shorter grasses (buffalo, mesquite, Bermuda, and the grama grasses) would have a higher average phosphorus content. It is found to be true, also, that these species usually are higher in mineral and protein content than the taller grasses even when associated with them in the same pasture and at approximately the same stage of development.

The stage of growth of the vegetation is found to be a very influential factor in determining its phosphorus content. The fresh new growth contains much more phosphorus than that at any later stage of development and when mature and dormant there is only a trace of this element in many species. Samples of shrubs such as mesquite, cat-claw, guajillo, and blackbrush have a consistently high phosphorus content. Palatable weeds also contain more of this element than do grasses growing on the same soil. Legumes, such as the clovers, contain more phosphorus than grasses and symptoms of a deficiency of this mineral are rare in cattle grazed on well-managed pastures that contain considerable clover.

Few of the samples of grasses collected, except those of fresh green

* Assistant Animal Husbandman, BAI, Texas A. and M. College experiment station co-operated.

growth, contained .30 per cent phosphorus pentoxide or .13 per cent phosphorus. Twenty pounds of dry matter of this phosphorus content would supply approximately 12 grams of phosphorus which is tentatively considered to be the amount of this element required for the maintenance of a 1,000-pound cow. This figure is exclusive of such special requirements as growth, pregnancy, and lactation. The pastures populated entirely by the tall rank grasses were thus found to supply insufficient phosphorus for the cattle during most of the year. The deficiency is less acute with pastures in which the shorter grasses predominate and usually occurs for shorter periods due to the ability of these smaller species to retain more of their mineral storage as they mature. Drought of course intensified the phosphorus deficiency of all pastures. The systematic mowing of pastures not only increases the density of the vegetation but, by eliminating the rank dead forage, allows the cattle to graze the short, green, and more nutritious growth. This practice has been found to be very beneficial in the eastern coastal country where there is abundant rainfall.

Cattle seem to exercise considerable selection in the choice of their grazing and if not forced to eat all available forage tend to consume those grasses that are comparatively high in phosphorus content. In pastures containing Bermuda, carpet, and little bluestem grasses, the former is usually the most closely grazed. Buffalo and mesquite grasses are consumed in preference to sage grass, honeydew, or smut grass. Joint grass and needle grass, which are low in phosphorus content, are usually eaten only when all other forage is gone.

A low protein content of forage is usually associated with a low phosphorus content so that a deficiency of one in cattle may often be complicated by a deficiency of the other. Since protein supplements that are ordinarily fed to range cattle also contain considerable

phosphorus, their use may correct both deficiencies.

Testing Ground at King Ranch

In order to determine definitely by actual trials what mineral or combination of minerals benefit range cattle in south Texas, the King Ranch has provided cattle and pasture near Falfurrias and has co-operated on a mineral feeding experiment for the past three years. In the beginning heifers approximately eighteen months of age and having an average weight of 615 pounds were divided as equally as possible into four groups. All groups utilized the same pasture and water supply and were bred to the same bulls. To eliminate any discrepancies in amount or frequency of consumption of the supplements used the cattle were put through a chute each day (except Sunday) and those receiving mineral supplement were hand dosed. The treatment for each group was as follows:

Group 1: No supplement.

Group 2: Bonemeal to supply 6.5 grams of phosphorus and approximately 13 grams of calcium per head per day.

Group 3: Di-sodium phosphate to supply 6.5 grams of phosphorus per head per day.

Group 4: Bonemeal to supply 6.5 grams of phosphorus and approximately 13 grams of calcium per head per day, plus mineral salts to provide small amounts of iron, copper, manganese, cobalt, zinc, and boron.

To provide for the increased requirements of lactation, the amount of supplements fed groups 2 and 3 was increased so as to supply 14.3 grams of phosphorus for each cow while nursing her calf. The quantities of the supplements fed the cattle probably provided an amount of phosphorus in excess of their requirements for this element when an abundance of green forage was available.

The results of this experiment to date, as measured by the weight data of the

cows and their calves, percentage calf crop, appraised value of the calves, incidence of creeps, and blood analyses, have proved that a supplement providing adequate phosphorus is definitely needed by range cattle in this area. They have also proved that no advantage is obtained by supplying supplements that contain calcium or any of the so-called trace minerals that were included in the supplements fed to group 4.

To present clearly the value of phosphorus in range cattle production, a brief summary of the results of the experiment to date are shown in the appended table. The groups fed bonemeal and di-sodium phosphate, having received the same amount of phosphorus, are combined.

Value of Phosphorus Supplement

In our opinion the most significant comparisons in the above data are those concerning the number and value of the calves produced. Only 21 per cent of the cows that were not fed supplement produced calves for two consecutive years, and when one also considers the reduced value of the calves, due to lack of size and condition, the economic benefit obtained by supplying a phosphorus supplement is indeed unquestionable.

The analyses of blood samples to determine their inorganic phosphorus content have been found to be of value not only for experimental purposes but in locating areas of phosphorus deficiency and in studying the efficiency of phosphorus supplements provided cattle in those areas. Blood analyses have verified the results of the grass analyses in relation to areas of deficiency and also as to the difference in phosphorus content of green and dry forage. An inorganic phosphorus content of the blood of cattle of less than 4 milligrams per 100 cubic centimeters of blood is considered to be evidence of a deficiency of this element in the ration of the cattle. Except for instances of dry cows or young cattle grazing on fresh green vegetation, no blood

Comparison of gains and other production factors of cows and calves fed phosphorus in addition to the range with those made by similar cattle receiving only range vegetation.

Item		Cattle Fed Phosphorus Supplement in Addition to Range	Cattle Fed No Additional Phosphorus
Average gains prior to calving (11 months)	Pounds	299	206
Average gains in weight by cows during lactation (10 months)	Pounds	—97	—173
Average gains in weight by cows during dry period (3 months)	Pounds	—9	4
Percentage of cows producing calves for two consecutive years	Per cent	72	21
Percentage of calf crop (2-year average)	Per cent	83	58
Average weaning weight of calves	Pounds	499	421
Average weaning weight of calves prorated to all cows	Pounds	448	320
Value of calf at weaning time*	Dollars	39.92	29.48
Value of calf at weaning time prorated to all cows*	Dollars	35.84	22.40
Value of calf, less cost of phosphorus supplement fed dam	Dollars	37.32	29.48
Average weight of heifers at one year of age	Pounds	541	441
Value of yearling heifers, less cost of supplement fed from weaning to one year	Dollars	43.06	30.87
Annual cost of phosphorus supplement per cow**	Dollars	2.60	0
Incidence of "creeps"	Per cent	0	32

* Calves from cows fed phosphorus supplement were valued at 8 cents per pound and those from the cows that received no additional phosphorus were valued at 7 cents per pound.

** The phosphorus supplements consisted of bonemeal and di-sodium phosphate. Di-sodium phosphate cost \$60 per ton and bonemeal \$42 per ton.

samples from cattle not receiving a phosphorus supplement have shown an inorganic phosphorus content above 4 milligrams per 100 cubic centimeters of blood.

Of the combination of trace minerals fed group 4 of the experiment iron, copper, manganese, and probably cobalt may affect the hemoglobin concentration of the blood if there were deficiencies of these elements. Hemoglobin determinations were made of practically all blood samples collected from the experimental cattle. There were no significant differences in the concentration of this compound in the blood of cattle in this group from that of the other groups. This is evidence that it is unnecessary to include these elements in supplements fed to range cattle in this area.

The results of analyses of blood samples from cattle in several pastures of the King Ranch have caused considerable doubt as to the efficiency of bonemeal or other licks in pastures where an extreme phosphorus deficiency exists. There has been no instance of samples from lactating cows in such pastures having an average inorganic phosphorus content of the blood as high as 4 milligrams per 100 cubic centimeters. In comparison, samples of blood drawn from similar cattle in adjoining pastures, where di-sodium phosphate is added to the water supply at the rate of twenty pounds per 1,000 gallons have never

failed to have an average inorganic phosphorus content in excess of 4 milligrams per 100 cubic centimeters. Apparently not all cattle, especially lactating cows, having access to bonemeal in self-feeders, consume a sufficient amount to satisfy their requirements for phosphorus, whereas the addition of a soluble phosphate compound to a water supply that can be controlled insures an adequate consumption of this element. This conclusion is further sustained by the high percentage of "creeps" that occur periodically among the cattle in pastures where bonemeal is provided, and by the absence of cases of this condition where di-sodium phosphate is added to the water supply. An experiment for the purpose of obtaining an accurate comparison of the efficiency of these two methods of supplying phosphorus to range cattle is to begin in the near future. Results will be measured by weights, fertility, development, and blood analyses.

Cattle in Section Get Enough Calcium

The present experiment, as previously stated, has proved that range cattle under the conditions found in this section of Texas do not require the inclusion of calcium in their mineral supplements. Many ranchmen feed mixtures of salt, oyster shell or ground limestone, and bonemeal, and others feed only salt and oyster shell

or other calcium supplement. The former are reducing the phosphorus content of their supplement by the inclusion of the calcium-carrying compounds, and the latter are entirely neglecting the really essential element, phosphorus.

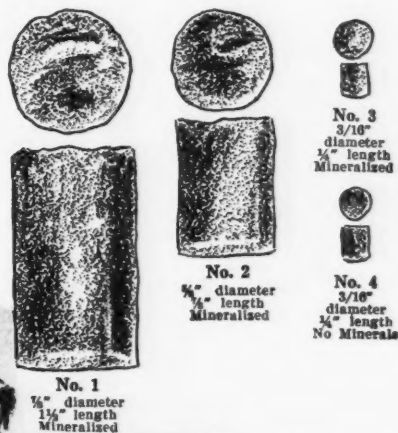
The salt (sodium chloride) content of the forage in many parts of the coastal prairie is apparently sufficient to satisfy the requirements of range cattle for this supplement. We have found that in some pastures cattle could be induced to consume considerably more bonemeal from self-feeders when it was not mixed with salt than when so mixed. The fact that cattle eat salt does not prove that they need it, and this also holds true for the afore-mentioned calcium supplements. The consumption of salt may be for the same reason as that of bones, etc.—an endeavor to satisfy their craving for phosphorus. It would be advantageous for all cattlemen who feed bonemeal to experiment on their own ranches to determine if their cattle will not eat more bonemeal if it is fed alone or, if not, what mixtures of salt and bonemeal induce the greatest consumption of the latter supplement.

Nutrition investigations have demonstrated that there are thirteen mineral elements essential to animal life. They are sodium, potassium, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, manganese, iron, copper, cobalt, zinc, sulphur, iodine, and

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chlorine. Several other elements are suspected as being essential. The mixture fed group 4 in the experiment contains all of these elements that it was believed could possibly be deficient in the vegetation of south Texas. Moreover the minerals are fed in amounts which should adequately satisfy the requirements of the cattle. It is clearly indicated that the cattle receiving these additional minerals did not receive any increased benefit over those that received only di-sodium phosphate or bonemeal. There are many expensive commercial supplements on the market that contain some of these elements and others that are labeled with claims far in excess of any proved value. The inclusion of laxatives, worm-expellers, tonics, and other substances of even less value in mineral supplements may be harmful and is certain to be expensive to the purchaser. It is always better to secure the services of a competent veterinarian than to rely on such concoctions to correct any disorder in cattle. Provided the mineral supplements contain not less than 10 per cent phosphorus, beneficial results may be obtained from their use if cattle are on a phosphorus-deficient range. Probably it is only the phosphorus content that is of value, but the cattleman is also paying for several other expensive ingredients not needed.

The co-operators in these mineral deficiency studies believe that the results have a wide field of practical application and should be of value to many producers of range cattle.

HOW TO FIGURE YOUR INCOME TAX

THOUSANDS OF FARMERS AND ranchers who heretofore have not had to file federal income tax returns will be required to do so this year. The reason for this is, first, because the Revenue Act of 1941 reduced the personal exemptions, and, second, farmers and ranchers as a whole enjoyed a higher income in 1941 than for many years previously.

From the income-tax standpoint, the term "farmer" is used in the following paragraphs to refer to the person or company engaged in farming, to livestock raisers, fruit and truck growers, poultry raisers, and operators of plantations and ranches. These persons must file income tax returns for the calendar year 1941 if their gross income was \$750 or over in the case of a single person or a married person not living with husband or wife, or in the case of married persons living with husband or wife if their combined gross income equalled or exceeded \$1,500.

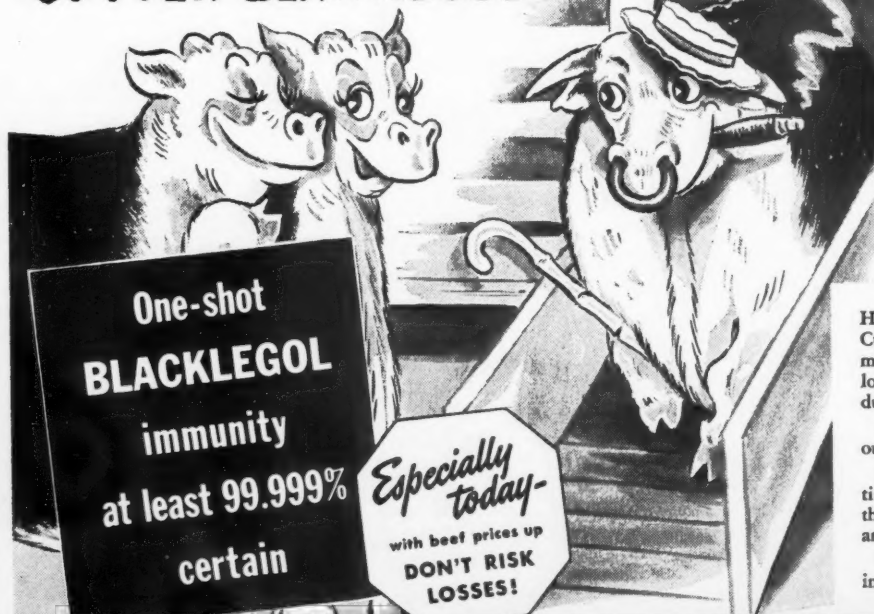
Either Cash or Accrual Basis May Be Used

Farmers may maintain their records and file their returns of income on either the cash receipts and disbursements basis or on the accrual basis of accounting. A consistent method must, however, be em-

ployed. If a cash basis is used, Form 1040F, "Schedule of Farm Income and Expenses," is required to be filled out and filed in conjunction with Form 1040. Use of Form 1040F is optional in the case of farmers who report income on the accrual basis. A farmer who reports income on the cash receipts and disbursements basis (in which no inventories to determine profits are used) must include in gross income for the taxable year (1) the amount of cash or the value of merchandise or other property received during the taxable year from the sale of livestock or produce which were raised, regardless of when raised; (2) the profits from the sale of any livestock or other items which were purchased; and (3) gross income from all other sources.

Under the accrual basis in which inventories are used to determine the profits, farmers' gross profits are ascertained by adding to the inventory value of livestock and produce on hand at the end of the year the amount received from the sale of livestock and produce, and miscellaneous receipts of income during the year, and deducting from this sum the inventory value of livestock and produce on hand at the beginning of the year and the cost of livestock and pro-

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duce purchased during the year. All livestock, whether purchased or raised, must be included in inventory at their proper valuation. Livestock acquired for draft, breeding, or dairy purposes and not for sale may be included in the inventory instead of being treated as capital assets subject to depreciation, provided such practice is consistently followed.

If farm produce is exchanged for merchandise, groceries, or the like, the market value of the articles received in exchange is to be included in gross income. The value of farm products which are produced by a farmer and consumed by his family does not constitute taxable income. Rents received in crop shares are to be returned as income as of the year in which the crop shares are reduced to money or the equivalent of money. Proceeds of insurance, such as hail and fire insurance on growing crops, are required to be included in gross income.

Receipts from AAA

Amounts received as loans from the Commodity Credit Corporation may, at the option of the taxpayer, be considered as income and included in gross income for the taxable year in which received. The election made with respect to the calendar year 1939, or for the first year thereafter for which a return is required to be filed, is binding for all subsequent years unless the commissioner approves a change to a different method of accounting. Amounts received under the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allot-

ment Act, as amended, the Price Adjustment Act of 1938, section 303 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, as amended, and the Sugar Act of 1937 constitute taxable income to the recipients for federal income-tax purposes.

A farmer who operates a farm for profit is entitled to deduct from gross income as necessary expenses all amounts expended (other than those constituting capital expenditures) in the carrying on of the business of farming. The cost of feeding and raising livestock may be treated as an expense deduction insofar as such costs represent actual outlay, but not including the value of farm produce grown upon the farm or the labor of the taxpayer. Also deductible is the cost of seed, minor repairs to farm buildings (other than the dwelling of the farmer), and small tools used up in the course of a year or two.

The cost of fuel and oil used for farm work, as well as repairs and maintenance of farm machinery, is deductible as a business expense; but the cost of farm machinery, equipment, and farm buildings represents a capital investment and is not an allowable deduction. The cost, however, may be recovered by depreciation allowances. The cost of gasoline, repairs, and upkeep of an automobile if used wholly in connection with the taxpayer's farm operations, as well as depreciation thereon, may be deducted; but, if an automobile is used partly for business and partly for pleasure or the convenience of the taxpayer or his family, the cost of operation may be ap-

portioned according to the extent of the use for purposes of business and for pleasure or convenience, and the portion attributable to business will be deductible as a necessary business expense.

Hired Labor and Machines

The cost of hired laborers and hired machines on a farm and the part of the board which is purchased for hired laborers are deductible. The value of products furnished by the farm and used in the board of hired laborers is not a deductible expense. Rations purchased and furnished to laborers or sharecroppers are deductible as a part of the labor expense. Amounts paid to persons engaged in household work to the extent that their services are used in boarding and otherwise caring for farm laborers are deductible, but amounts paid for services of such employees engaged in caring for the farmer's own household are not a deductible expense.

Amounts expended in the development of farms, orchards, and ranches prior to the time when the productive state is reached may be regarded as investments of capital. The cost of planting trees as well as the amounts expended by a farmer in the restoration of soil fertility preparatory to actual production of crops and the cost of liming soil to increase productiveness over a period of years are capital expenditures; but the cost of commercial fertilizers, the benefit of which is of short duration and which

(Continued on Page 20)

WHAT ARE YOUR LIVESTOCK WORRIES?

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You who are fighting on the food front have a right to know that when you buy Cutter Products, the company you patronize is doing its part, too. As it did throughout World War I.

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COMMON INTERESTS OF THE CORN BELT AND WEST

What are some of the problems of the Corn Belt farmer that affect the western rangeman? . . . What effect has the farm program had upon the feeding situation in the Corn Belt? . . . These and other questions are answered in the following address made at the forty-fifth annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association at Salt Lake City in January by E. A. Kelloway.

I FELT VERY HONORED WHEN your secretary, Mr. Mollin, asked me to appear on your program. The subject suggested by your secretary—"The Common Interests of the Corn Belt Feeder and the Western Producer"—has many ramifications—too many for me to cover in the time allotted. You have in your own organization people who are experts on some of the problems that are of mutual interest to the western producer and the Corn Belt feeder. For instance, your able president, Mr. Brock, has done much work and made a thorough study of the disease problem in foreign countries as it might affect our industry. Your secretary has been of untold value to the industry in the work that he has done in maintaining the barriers against the movement of meat and meat products from countries infested with infectious diseases. We still have a battle to wage. It is my feeling that the western producer and the Corn Belt feeder could by co-operative effort be much more effective in this fight. I believe in the good-neighbor policy. The dastardly act that took place on December 7 proves that democracies in order to survive must unite against the powers that have but one thought in mind and that is to destroy us. But the sure way to destroy us would be to destroy our resources. The movement of livestock into the United States from territories harboring disease—a disease that would destroy the food resources—would certainly be a help to our enemies, because, as many have said and I believe, food will be the deciding factor in this war.

Tariff protection for our industry needs our ever watchful eye. Recently, based upon the good-neighbor theory, there has been considerable writing down of tariffs. This war is going to end some day. We are going to return, I believe and hope, to a normal life, and, when that does happen, it is important that our production efforts during this emergency and our industry in the future be given proper protection. I believe that the western producer and the Corn Belt feeder have in the past worked together on tariffs. They can and should in the future work on this problem.

There are many problems of disease

control within the United States that are of mutual interest to the western producer and the Corn Belt feeder. The subject of disease within the United States and the movement of cattle between states is a most important one. We at the market must maintain a free movement of livestock interstate in order to provide the maximum demand for the livestock coming to the market. We are continually being confronted with new regulations proposed by states restricting the movement of livestock. The western producer does not want restrictions placed against the movement of his livestock. Neither does the Corn Belt farmer want restrictions placed against him as to where he can buy livestock for his feed-lot. So again it is important that we work more closely to remove unnecessary regulations and restrictions and make sure that you have the broadest possible market for your livestock and the Corn Belt feeder has the broadest possible available source for his feed-lots.

The part of this subject that I feel somewhat conversant with probably should be entitled, "The Problems of the Corn Belt Feeder as They Affect the Western Rangeman." When I think of the western rangeman, I think of the producers of beef cattle who live in Oklahoma, Texas, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, and California. When I think of the states where feeding operations are carried on, I think of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Kansas. The last four states mentioned have range lands. They both produce beef in the feed-lots and grow and produce beef on the range. Colorado also does considerable feeding. Within the range states and Corn Belt states above mentioned you will find, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service, 76 per cent of the total cattle population in the United States. Deducting the dairy cattle from the total population within these areas, you find that 80 per cent of the beef cattle population is located in the states mentioned above.

This is as of January 1, 1941. These are the latest statistics available on the



E. A. Kelloway, secretary of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange.

total population. These figures also divulge some additional facts. In 1940 as compared with 1920, you will find that the dairy animals in the states known as the Corn Belt states have increased 2,500,000 head. In the western states you will find an increase in dairy animals of 1,300,000 head, or a total increase in the two areas of 3,800,000 head. Now in 1940 as compared with 1920, you will find a decrease in beef animals in the western states of 2,200,000 head and in the Corn Belt states a decrease of 100,000 head, or a total decrease of 2,300,000 head. This seems like an unusual trend when you consider that practically without exception the beef that Mrs. Housewife likes to buy and the husband likes to consume comes from the states that I have mentioned above.

I have heard the statement made many times recently that we are developing into a beef eating nation. If this is true, the western producer and the Corn Belt feeder must co-operate in providing the available supply of beef. Also, the present emergency has increased unemployment and expanded purchasing power, resulting in increased consumption of beef. The federally inspected slaughter of 1941 will be approximately 8 per cent greater than in 1940. The tonnage will show a much larger increase.

What are some of the problems of the Corn Belt farmer that affect the western range man? I hope that anything that I say on this subject will not be misunderstood. I am merely giving you the facts as I have observed them. I am sure that you will agree with me that, since the Corn Belt farmer has found it profitable to purchase cattle raised on the western range for his Corn Belt feed-lot, the average price received by the western rangeman has been considerably higher. Also this normal

(Continued on Page 21)

REPORT OF ARIZONA CATTLEMEN'S MEETING

THOMAS E. HEADY, OF PATAGONIA, Arizona, was elected to succeed Louis P. Horrell, Globe, as president of the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association at the thirty-eighth annual convention February 10-11 at Prescott. Mr. Heady is manager of the Greene Cattle Company. He is a well-known breeder of Quarter Horses.

The convention named Norman Fain, Prescott, first vice-president; Fred Fritz, Clifton, second vice-president; Ralph Cowan, McNeal, treasurer; and Mrs. J. M. Keith, Phoenix, secretary. Douglas was chosen as the 1943 convention site.

President Horrell in his annual address, complimenting the cattlemen on their willingness to offer their production facilities for the war effort, said that the biggest job was to get the war won. He suggested close marketing of old stock as an aid in the food-for-defense program and in keeping down the surplus that is almost sure to exist at the end of the war. He reviewed the activities of the association during the past year.

Frank S. Boice, Sonoita, president of the American National Live Stock Association and formerly chairman of the legislative committee of that organization, told the stockmen that South American meat surpluses, according to Washington officials, are no threat to the domestic producer for the present, that the American National will do all it can to see that price fixing does not interfere with livestock production, and that the cattlemen's job is to return home and continue to produce cattle.

The price control machinery in the new law is not likely to touch cattle for the time being, F. E. Mollin, executive secretary of the American National Live Stock Association, said in his talk to the group. But such action might come if there were a sharp advance in the market, although the supply situation is against such an advance, he said.

Mr. Mollin gave the opinion that the proposed raise in freight rates would not amount to the full 10 per cent requested. He told the stockmen that the national association was watching closely the proposed hemisphere agreements to permit free importation of strategic war materials which might cover anything, to see that no move is made to interfere with the present embargo on importations of livestock and livestock products from countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists.

Other speakers on the program included Mrs. Ralph Cowan, McNeal, president of the Arizona Cowbelles, woman's auxiliary of the Arizona cattle association; Dr. Alfred Atkinson, president of the University of Arizona; Carl Holmes, chairman of the Arizona Industrial Commission; A. J. Coates, Berkeley,

California, president of the Berkeley Production Credit Association; A. P. Davies, of the National Meat Institute; and Davenport Phelps, of the National Livestock and Meat Board.

In resolutions the cattlemen called for sharp curtailment of federal and state non-war expenditures, particularly for relief; opposed creation in Arizona of new national parks or monuments or enlargement of existing ones; and opposed modification of the embargo against importations of diseased livestock or meats.

Other resolutions asked the Forest Service to modify its policy to permit controlled brush burning in all areas except timber lands; asked that the Arizona Corporation Commission not increase intrastate freight rates on agricultural products; and requested that priorities be granted to permit necessary repairs, supplies, machinery, and a minimum of tires, "without which our production of meat cannot be maintained."

An event at the meeting was the organization of the Arizona Junior Cattle Growers' Association by ranch youths from all the counties. Art Evans, Black Canyon, was elected president; Roger Stiles, Winslow, vice-president; Bill Bourdon, Jr., Holbrook, secretary, and Marion Perkins, Prescott, treasurer. An adult advisory board included Mrs. Clifford Koontz, Mayer; A. H. Randall, Holbrook; and Carlos Ronstadt, Tucson.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

NEW MEXICO CONVENTION

The line-up of speakers at the twenty-eighth annual convention of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association in Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 6-7, include Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Grover Hill; Frank Boice, president of the American National Live Stock Association, Tucson, Arizona; F. R. Carpenter, director of Colorado's department of revenue, Denver; H. J. Gramlich, secretary of the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, Chicago; Harry E. Terrell, Des Moines, Iowa; D. A. Bryce, of the FBI, El Paso, Texas; H. R. Davison, vice-president of the American Meat Institute; and Governor John E. Miles of New Mexico. Officers of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association are: Tom Clayton, president, Separ, New Mexico; E. G. Hayward, Cimarron; Jim L. Black, Deming; J. J. Lane, Jr., Caprock; B. A. Christmas, Las Cruces; vice-presidents; and Horace H. Henning, Albuquerque, secretary.

WOOL GROWERS' MEETING

Woolmen meeting in Salt Lake City in January recommended that the federal government take over the American wool clip for the remainder of the war and

for one year thereafter or until disposition of all government-owned wools. They preferred such purchase to the plan of establishing price control on the commodity. The wool growers, who were attending the seventy-seventh annual convention of the National Wool Growers' Association, also urged continued maintenance of a protective tariff, opposed the closed shop, and urged abolishment of the WPA, NYA, CCC, and other similar agencies. Other resolutions opposed chain store taxes, recommended uniform state trucking regulations, commended work of the National Livestock and Meat Board, opposed increase in grazing fees, objected to further government buying of private land, and opposed the Johnson bill, S. 1030.

ASKS REPRESENTATION ON WPB

Urgent recommendations that the director of the Office of Defense Transportation, Joseph B. Eastman, be made a member of the War Production Board and that he be given "full powers to control all priorities, allocations, and rationing affecting all motor vehicle transportation necessary in our united war effort," was made at Washington, D. C., recently in a joint statement by eleven national highway user groups, including the American National Live Stock Association. Declaring that "transportation is as essential as production in our effort to achieve victory," the organizations asserted that the director of defense transportation must be given these powers in order to meet "the full requirements of war-time transportation." Reciting the additional war-time transportation load on "33,000,000 motor vehicles, upon which the very location and character of industry, as well as the pattern of living, both urban and rural, have become astonishingly dependent," the statement declared that the nation's war effort "involves gigantic all-out efforts on the part of our agencies of transportation."

WANT FULL COTTON ACREAGE

Representatives of Cotton Belt agricultural colleges, extension services, experiment stations, and state, federal, and private agencies attended a convention of the Southern Agricultural Workers at Memphis, Tennessee, in early February and adopted a resolution holding "that any effort to encourage farmers to plant less than their full legal cotton acreage allotment is unwarranted and unsound," and calling upon the secretary of agriculture and state and federal agricultural workers to use every means at their disposal to urge American cotton farmers to plant the full acreage allotment permitted by law. It was explained that the acreage goals announced by the Department of Agriculture were substantially below the minimum acreage allotment provided by law "and which were designed to encourage farm-



BLIZZARD

[To be read with the beat and throb, the furious rush of the tempest.]

Dark is the night and deep its scowl,
And the blizzard sweeps with an angry howl
To shape the drifts with a sculptor's skill
In the roaring pines that ride the hill,

*And the sleet goes rattling down through the trees,
Rattling and rattling down through the trees.*

The storm-wraiths whirl in a dervish rout,
Danced to the drone of the north-wind's shout—
A dance of ice, a dance of death,
Piped and played by the blizzard's breath,

*And the wind goes moaning out through the trees,
Moaning and moaning out through the trees.*

[More slowly and with sadness, without abating the turbulence of the storm.]

Still on the storm-cry a cow-brute's bawl
Is muffled and mocked by a snow-flung squall;
Her just-born calf is dead tonight,
Frozen and stiff, shrouded in white,

*For it opened its eyes on the drifting snow,
Shivered and sighed and died in the snow.*

No more her flesh, this frost-hid mite,
The cow sniffs twice and drifts to the night.
A wandering coyote, his chops atwitch,
Has caught the scent and yelps to his bitch

*Of the tender bones that were dropped in the snow—
Trembled and sighed and died in the snow.*

[With the great peace that follows a storm, tempered by the grinding cold.]

But hark! the ravening wind is still,
The pines are hushed, asleep in the chill,
And see! the clouds are splintered and gone
And the stars peer out at the frigid dawn,

*At the shadowless blur of breaking dawn—
Lifeless, shadowless, breaking dawn.*

The night has waned, the day creeps bright
To steep the cliffs in bitter light,
And stately lifts the bloody sun,
For the shout is silenced, the storm is done

*And the fields are glistening plains of white—
Fleckless, intolerable plains of white.*

—HUMBERT REES.



ers to plant less than their full lawful cotton acreage allotment." Numerous conflicting statements have been made by responsible officials and others, implying that the farmer would be unpatriotic if he planted his full allotment, the resolution stated.

TO STANDARDIZE ASSESSMENTS

Representatives of Colorado, Kansas, Wyoming, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Utah will be asked to attend a conference of tax officials in Denver this summer to promote uniform legislation for assessment of livestock, according to James P. McInroy, a member of the Colorado Tax Commission. The announcement followed a meeting of Colorado tax officers with William Ljungdahl, a member of the Kansas Tax Commission, and W. J. Miller, Kansas livestock sanitary commissioner and secretary of the Kansas Live Stock Association. Mr. McInroy said that laws of the various states conflict on assessment of livestock owned in one state and grazed in another for part of a year. In some instances a stockman must pay full-year taxes in two states.

CALENDAR

MARCH—

- 3-5—Kansas Livestock Ass'n Convention, Wichita.
- 4-5—Nebraska Hereford Ass'n Show and Auction, Grand Island.
- 5-7—New Mexico Cattle Growers' Ass'n Annual Convention, Albuquerque.
- 7—North Central Nebraska Hereford Ass'n Sale, Bassett.
- 9—Northwest Nebraska Hereford Breeders Ass'n Sale, Valentine.
- 10—Crawford Hereford Breeders' Ass'n Sale, Crawford, Neb.
- 10-12—Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Ass'n Annual Convention, El Paso.
- 25—Platte Valley Hereford Auction, North Platte, Neb.
- 26-27—Louisiana Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, Lake Charles.
- 30—Western Nebraska Hereford Ass'n Sale, Alliance.

APRIL—

- 3—Northern Colorado Hereford Breeders' Sale, Greeley.
- 4—Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n Convention, Salt Lake City.

MAY—

- 8-9—Idaho Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, Boise.
- 27-28—Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Missoula.

JUNE—

- 4-6—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n Convention, Steamboat Springs.
- 8-10—South Dakota Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Belle Fourche.
- 11-13—Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Lexington.
- 12-13—North Dakota Stockmen's Ass'n Convention, Fargo.

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THE RIO CONFERENCE

FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS our Department of State has been going to great lengths to appease the countries of South America. It has been largely in the name of American solidarity, first in the interest of defense against being involved in the war and later when, despite these efforts, war came to us, in the interest of presenting a united front to win the war. Most of the concessions made, however, to bring about this solidarity have been made by the United States, although all countries involved are supposed to benefit equally. Just why we should make all the sacrifices has never been made entirely clear. Just how much of the program involved is really necessary for defense or war and how much of it is non-essential to that cause, but being adopted in furtherance of long-laid plans for all-out participation in international affairs, ruthlessly cutting down tariffs and other trade barriers to that end, we will not know until the war is over.

The recent conference at Rio de Janeiro went further in the above direction than anything else that has so far happened. One development at that conference was of special interest to the livestock industry of the United States; namely, the fact that, despite all the concessions that have been made and despite all the pressure that could be brought upon her, Argentina still insisted on playing a role antagonistic to the United States. Whatever the reasons that lay behind this attitude on her part—and no doubt the position taken reflected the attitude of the leaders of the Argentine people at this time—at least it serves to unmask the propaganda which has been widely distributed

in this country for years past; namely, that full observance of the good neighbor policy on our part would line up all the South American countries against the common enemy and to that end no sacrifices demanded of us were too great.

We, of course, are particularly interested in the efforts that have been made to open up the livestock markets of the United States to South America meat products. Argentina has been the leader in the demands for such action on our part. It has been repeatedly claimed that our refusal was the main cause of ill feeling against the United States in the Argentine and that everything would be "love and dove" if only we took the desired step. Strange to say, this line of reasoning was entirely overlooked in the turmoil of the Rio conference. Not once did there come out of it even the hint of a suggestion that the action of the United States livestock producers in demanding protection against imports from countries harboring foot-and-mouth disease had anything whatsoever to do with the issues involved at Rio. They really got down to essentials. Propaganda such as we have been absorbing for years had no place in the picture, and it was made clear that Argentina's isolationist attitude was based entirely upon political consideration, both local and foreign.

Needless to say we are greatly relieved at this plain showing of the facts in the case. Even our State Department can no longer with good grace claim that the livestock industry of the United States is standing in the way of the desired Pan-American objectives. Furthermore, it is difficult to make anything like a major argument out of the meat situation, when it is common knowledge that Great Britain has contracted the entire Argentine beef surplus for the current shipping year ending September 30 next and that even in the matter of canned meats the United States is buying sparingly down there in order not to be in the position of competing with Great Britain.

It all adds up to prove that the long-time position of the United States livestock producer relative to South Amer-

ican meats is a sound one. The Argentine effort to break down our sanitary barriers was based solely on selfish considerations to tap a market which would net more to Argentine meat producers than the already profitable English market open to them. It is now clearly demonstrated that they do not need the United States market; their surpluses are disposed of; the sanitary barrier has no bearing on international relations, despite tons of propaganda to the contrary; and the United States, with a tremendous burden placed on its livestock producers to provide meat to meet the demands of our own civilian population, stimulated greatly by the war program—the ever-increasing demands of our own army and navy plus tremendous and increasing quantities for our allies—now of all times must take every step possible to protect against any possible infestation of disease.

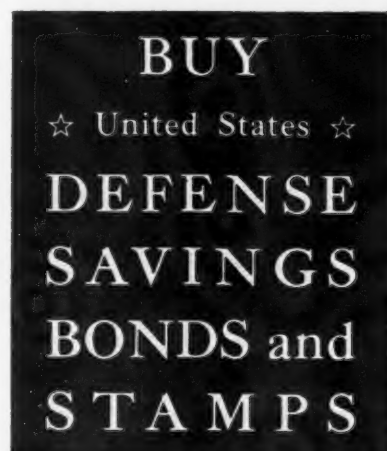
FARM PRICE STANDARDS

DURING THE PAST SIX MONTHS, when the matter of price-fixing legislation has been under consideration, reams have been written about farm prices—what percentage of parity they were, how near or how much above parity they should be allowed to go, etc. One would almost believe that farm prices were the major ones to be regulated under the bill, as little or nothing has been said about the prices of other commodities, while labor, of course, protected as always by the administration, has been left unchecked in any degree.

The real reason for this concentration of interest on the subject of farm prices has passed practically unnoticed. The fact of the matter is that farm prices between wars, on the whole, sink to a basis not much above the existence level and the consuming public becomes so accustomed to buying its food on that basis that the war stimulus given to farm prices makes them quite naturally the center of attention. It is a tragic fact, that, taken as a whole, farm prices have seldom reached anywhere near that exceptionally happy level called parity base, except during periods when stimulated by a war demand either at home or abroad.

As a result, the farmer has been pictured as grasping for the last dollar in sight in his efforts to provide a reasonable basis below which price ceilings cannot be imposed, while a similarly profitable basis for other commodities and the uncontrolled level of wages far above anything ever enjoyed by the farmer go almost unnoticed.

Even today, after a few years of comparative prosperity in the farm belt, there is still much to be done in the way of recovery and reconstruction. Thousands of farms still belong to banks and insurance companies, taken on mortgages during the last period of



depression. As a result, farm lands are still selling in some areas at distressed prices, and it will take two or three years more of reasonably good times to correct this situation.

Under the circumstances, it seems strange indeed that the President, in signing the price-fixing bill, should insist that the protective amendments which insure farm prices that will help pull the farm belt up on a level somewhere near approaching that long enjoyed by industry and labor must be stricken from the bill at the first opportunity. The farmer resents the insinuation that he is attempting to profiteer. He believes that he should have the right, at least occasionally, to enjoy the same level of prosperity that abounds for other groups a major part of the time. He will determinedly fight any effort further to lower the ceiling price level unless it is done in an all-out war effort from which there are no exemptions, even for labor. If and when such a time comes, he will play his full part. In the meantime, he wants only a fair degree of equity in passing out the favors and fixing comparative wage levels; for after all the prices he receives for his commodities are his wages for the work he performs, and on a per-hour basis the farm price schedules of the price-fixing bill, translated into farm wages, would not reach up very high compared with those long enjoyed by skilled labor and now enjoyed even by relatively unskilled labor in our war production plants.

CONTROL THAT FAILED

SHORTAGE AND HIGH FEED prices in relation to the low established price for pork products prevented farmers from feeding hogs for market. The situation was so bad that in many instances the villages and townships were forced to contract for hogs in advance and provide necessary feed for fattening. Owing to the reluctance of farmers to fatten hogs under present conditions, the countryside abounds with lean, unsalable hogs."

That happened in Hungary. The item, culled from a paragraph in a recent *PRODUCER*, merely illustrates the point that in fixing prices many things must be kept in mind. It shows also the need for a fair price. The Hungarian housewife probably was well pleased when the low pork price was established. She found little satisfaction, however, when the net result turned out to be no pork at that price.

Of a total production of 1,535,868 rifles reported by the firearms industry to the Census Bureau in the last two censuses of manufactures, 783,732 were repeating rifles and 752,136 were single shot rifles.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON NOTES

RETREADS.—Agriculture is well covered in the new order rationing sales of retreaded or recapped tires. Two lists of eligibles are provided for in the order. List A includes tires for farm tractors or other farm implements; for trucks used exclusively for transportation of farm products, except where the transportation is to the ultimate consumer for his own use; and for ten-passenger-or-more vehicles for transportation of employees to and from farms, except where other facilities are available. List B—covering retreads left over after use by those in A—includes passenger cars used principally for transportation of produce and supplies to and from farms if the farmer owns no truck or has no other means of transportation.

New Automobiles.—Farmers are included in a list of eligibles for new automobiles under rationing regulations to take effect March 2. Purchase of a new car is conditioned on the showing to the local rationing board that the farmer lacks other means of transporting produce or supplies to and from market and that his present car is not adequate for the duties he performs. The new regulations also make defense workers, taxi operators, and essential traveling salesmen eligible to buy new machines, and aside from these groups include in general those eligible for rationing of new tires. Three hundred and forty thousand cars will be made available for distribution this year.

Farm Labor Deferment.—Attempts to enact rigid selective service deferment standards have been abandoned, and the selective service headquarters has recommended that local boards decide whether an agricultural worker is sufficiently necessary to the agricultural program in the interest of national defense to warrant deferment. In passing on deferments, the board will give thorough analysis to each man's agricultural status and serious consideration to information on the farm labor supply in the particular area. The Department of Agriculture will provide the local data on the farm labor situation.

Representatives to Washington.—Immediately following the Salt Lake City convention, President Frank S. Boice and Secretary F. E. Mollin of the American National Live Stock Association went to Washington, where their major concern was the pending price-fixing legislation. They conferred with numerous members of Congress from the West, urging adoption of various amendments to the bill to give more adequate protection to the livestock industry, such as the O'Mahoney amendment carrying various price schedules and the Bankhead amendment giving Secretary Wickard the last word before the imposition

of a ceiling on farm products. The latter amendment was adopted in full and most of the essential parts of the O'Mahoney amendment were likewise written into the bill. Conferences were held with officials of OPM, OPA, and Agricultural Defense Relations relative to price fixing, priorities, and other matters of current interest. "A pleasant call was made on Secretary Wickard, who expressed regret at his inability to be at the Salt Lake convention, and a visit was paid to Dr. John R. Mohler, chief of the Bureau of Animal Industry, always our friend on sanitary matters," Secretary Mollin said. Secretary Mollin returned to Washington early in February for further conferences on some of the foregoing matters.

Surpluses.—Farm senators quickly reversed their attitude toward Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard after a speech by the latter at Atlanta Georgia, in which he urged farmers to be satisfied with parity on surplus crops and a Department of Agriculture announcement that it would seek to hold corn and wheat prices between 85 per cent and parity.

Previously the farm bloc had considered Mr. Wickard its hero, because he had asked and obtained the inclusion in the price control bill of a provision giving him veto power over farm prices fixed by the price administrator. In the department announcement that it would try to prevent wheat and corn price increases it was proposed to sell government-held surplus stocks of wheat and corn. The plan would let AAA payments bring prices to parity. The Senate agricultural committee has approved a bill to prevent Mr. Wickard from using surpluses to keep prices down. When President Roosevelt signed the price control bill he criticized the provisions which would permit farm prices to rise to 110 per cent of parity. It had been his plan to hold prices on these commodities down to encourage livestock production.

Although for the present prices on these commodities are being controlled by government-held surpluses, eventually the minimum ceilings defined in the price control bill will rule.

Farm Machinery Repair.—Priority assistance is now being given for the repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery in the hands of American farmers. A new order provides that the farmer who repairs his machines himself, or the repair man who does it for him, may now use an A-10 priorities rating on his orders for necessary materials—from nuts and bolts to major repair parts.

Miscellaneous.—Limit on the national debt may be increased "to at least \$110,000,000,000 or removed altogether," ac-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

cording to a statement attributed to the secretary of the treasury. . . . The Senate passed a bill giving owners of property free insurance up to \$15,000 for war damage. . . . Corporations will bear the brunt of the new war tax program to raise \$7,000,000,000 in new taxes, according to press items. Corporation taxes may supply about half the new revenue, and individual income taxes, \$1,900,000,000 of it. . . . The House Ways and Means Committee killed an administration proposal for \$300,000,000 for job insurance to aid workers temporarily displaced while industry shifts to full war production. State governors objected to the bill because it would "federalize" state unemployment compensation systems.

O'MAHONEY AMENDMENT

THE O'MAHONEY AMENDMENT
In most of its essentials was retained in the recently enacted price fixing law, contrary to general impression. This is shown in the following statement in the Senate by Senator Prentiss M. Brown, of Michigan:

"While the Senator from Wyoming is present, I desire, briefly, to repeat a few things I said during his absence on this very subject matter: The conferees did not reject the O'Mahoney amendment in its entirety; only one element in the four-pointed O'Mahoney amendment was rejected by the conferees, and that was the wage-parity section. We included the December 15 date, in which the Senator from Wyoming told me he had a particular interest. We included the so-called Russell-Brown amendment, in which both the Senator from Wyoming and the Senator from Georgia had great interest; and we included the amendment in which the senator from New York (Mr. Mead) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. Aiken) were particularly interested, confirming all agricultural marketing agreements under the 1937 act. So of the four principal points in the O'Mahoney amendment the conferees adopted three, and only one was rejected.

"I am not in agreement with those, particularly the editorial opinion in some of the great metropolitan newspapers, who hold that the O'Mahoney amendment, if it had been adopted in toto, would have brought about inflation in this country. The amendment of the Senator from Wyoming would have, in my judgment, permitted a rise of approximately 25 per cent above the 99 per cent of parity which prevailed at the time of the hearing in the Senate, about December 7 or 8, but the rise would be approximately only 10 or 11 per cent above that possible under the provisions which are now in this bill, prescribing 110 per cent of parity.

"While I believe that it was best, all in all, that the O'Mahoney amendment

with respect to wage parity be stricken from the bill, I nevertheless desire to say that even with that amendment in the bill we should have had a price-control bill that would have exercised effective price control over farm commodities as well as other commodities. I think they would have gone a little bit higher than I wanted them to go; but I say frankly that with the rise of 1 per cent per month which it is generally felt will be brought about by the law of supply and demand—which, after all, is the fundamental thing in the bill—it is likely that on many commodities the price ceilings which will be fixed by the price administrator will exceed the limitations established in the wage-parity section of the O'Mahoney amendment. I say that as one who, without attempting to boast, I feel has some knowledge of this subject matter, and I say it in justification of the position taken by the Senator from Wyoming."

PRICE CONTROL LAW

SINCE THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH discussion about price fixing and its relation to so-called parity prices, there has been a good deal of confusion as to just how parity prices are fixed. For that reason, we give here a brief explanation of the matter, with particular reference to beef cattle:

The original parity price period, unless otherwise specified by law, is for the five-year period 1909-14. The farm price of beef cattle for that five-year period was \$5.21 per 100 pounds. On the fifteenth of each month the Agricultural Marketing Service figures parity, brought up to date, by the medium of multiplying the original parity price by the index of prices, interest, and

taxes paid by farmers currently. On January 15, 1942, for instance, this index figure was 146. This, times the original parity price—\$5.21—makes parity as of January 15, 1942, \$7.61 per 100 pounds. The price-fixing bill suggests various alternatives for price ceilings, only two of which are at all workable for beef cattle: One, 110 per cent of parity; the other, the actual farm price as of December 15, 1941. One hundred ten per cent of parity for January 15, 1942, would be \$8.37. The actual farm price December 15, 1941, was \$9.37 or \$9.38, according to different published schedules. Consequently, the actual price is still approximately \$1 per 100 pounds above 110 per cent of parity.

Farm Prices

Further confusion exists as to the method of ascertaining the actual farm price. This is done monthly by the Department of Agriculture through its offices throughout the country, each of which has various correspondents scattered throughout the states. They report prices actually received at home by the farmers for all kinds of livestock, grain, etc. It definitely is not a market price. In the case of beef cattle, the farm price quoted includes all grades sold for beef, from the lowest canners and cutters (which unfortunately includes the cast-offs from the dairy industry) to the choicest finished beef cattle. Consequently we have a farm price December 15, 1941, of \$9.38 per 100 pounds when actually on that date choice and prime steers were selling in Chicago at \$13.73 per hundred, good steers at \$12.78, medium steers at \$11.22, and common steers at \$9.40, the average for all grades of steers at Chicago on that date being \$13.04.



Farmers' Income Tax

(Continued from Page 13)

have to be used every year or so, even after a farm reaches the productive state, is deductible as an expense.

Amounts expended in purchasing work, breeding, or dairy animals are regarded as investments of capital and may be depreciated unless such animals are included in inventory.

Losses incurred in the operation of farms as business enterprises are deductible from gross income. If farm products are held for favorable markets, no deduction on account of shrinkage in

weight or physical value, or by reason of deterioration in storage, is allowed, except as such shrinkage may be reflected in an inventory if used in determining profits.

Destruction by Flood or Fire

The destruction by frost, storm, flood, or fire of a prospective crop is not a deductible loss in computing income since it represents the loss of anticipated profits which have never been reported as income. Likewise, a farmer engaged in raising and selling livestock, such as cattle, sheep, and hogs, is not entitled to claim as a loss the value of animals that perish from among those animals

that were raised on the farm, except as such loss is reflected in an inventory, if used. If livestock has been purchased for any purpose, and afterward dies from disease, exposure, or injury, or is killed by order of the authorities of a state or the United States, the actual purchase price of such livestock, less any depreciation allowable as a deduction in respect of such perished livestock, may be deducted as a loss if the loss is not compensated for by insurance or otherwise. The actual cost of other property (with proper adjustments for depreciation) which is destroyed by order of state or federal authorities may likewise be claimed as a loss. If reimbursement is made by a state or the United States in whole or in part on account of stock killed or other property destroyed in respect of which a loss was claimed in a prior year, the amount received is required to be reported as income for the year in which reimbursement is made. The cost of any feed, pasture, or care which has been deducted as an expense of operation must not be included as part of the cost of the stock for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of a deductible loss.

If gross income is ascertained by the use of inventories, no deduction can be taken separately for livestock or products lost during the year, whether purchased for resale or produced on the farm, as such losses will be reflected in the inventory by reducing the amount of livestock or products on hand at the close of the year, which has the effect of reducing gross income from business by the amount of the loss.

If an individual owns and operates a farm in addition to being engaged in another trade or business or calling, and sustains a loss from the farming operation, such loss may be deducted from gross income received from all sources in determining the taxpayer's net income, provided such farm is not operated for recreation or pleasure.

Farming for Recreation

If a farm is operated for recreation or pleasure and not on a commercial basis, and if the expenses incurred in connection therewith are in excess of the receipts therefrom, the entire receipts from the sale of products may be ignored in rendering a return of income, and the expenses incurred, being regarded as personal expenses, will not constitute allowable deductions for federal income-tax purposes.

Farmers who file their returns on the calendar year basis are required to file their income tax returns by March 16, 1942. They may pay the entire amount of the tax at the time of filing the return or in four equal installments; one installment at the time of filing the return, and the other installments on June 15, September 15, and December 15. Farmers in need of income tax forms or who require assistance in preparing their returns should call on the nearest collector of internal revenue.

OUR BATTLE

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OUR EFFORT WILL BE DEVOTED TO INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND MAINTENANCE OF THE PROPER COORDINATION OF ALL AGENCIES IN THE PRODUCTION, MARKETING, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE PRODUCTS OF FARM AND RANCH.

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Corn Belt and West

(Continued from Page 14)

operation is reflected in the quality of beef produced by the Corn Belt farmer for slaughter. I was glancing over some figures the other day showing the percentage of beef steers marketed during the year 1922 that graded choice to prime. Of the total beef slaughtered in 1922, only 13 per cent graded choice to prime, 31 per cent good, 43 per cent medium, 13 per cent common. In 1940 nearly 26 per cent of the steers graded choice to prime, 48 per cent graded good, 22 per cent medium, 4 per cent common. I am sure the good-quality cattle moved from the western range into the Corn Belt feed-lots for finishing accounts for the improvement in quality of the available supply of beef for consumption by the consumers.

Feeding Operations Concentrated

In the Corn Belt states the past few years there has been a tendency toward the reduction of the number of feeders. The feeding operation is being concentrated in the hands of fewer people. This, to a degree, has been caused by the present farm program. The provisions of the present farm program make it possible for the grower of grains in the Corn Belt states to seal his corn, and by sealing I mean making a loan on it at a minimum price. It is not necessary for the farmer in order to turn his grain production into money to feed livestock. As a result, many farmers in the Corn Belt states have become grain farmers. The program, in instances, has worked hardships on those people who are willing to take the chance and feed livestock. In feeding livestock there is not only speculation as to the price you will receive when the livestock is finished, but the feeder makes a large investment in labor and other costs. The feeder in the Corn Belt states is not in the majority. The grain farmer is in the majority. Grain farmers have had adequate representation in legislative problems in Washington. I have found in my various trips to Washington a lack of appreciation on the part of a most of the people as to the expense and work involved in producing beef.

You might say, "Of what interest is this to me?" Any farm program that fixes a price on feed is of vital interest to you who have stocker and feeder cattle to sell. You possibly wonder why the market for your cattle this fall has been such a sensitive one. It is because the feeder in the Corn Belt states knew that his feed costs, his labor costs, and all costs of operating his feed-lots would be higher during 1942 than they were during 1940 or 1941, and as a result of these increased feed costs he needed a wider margin between the cost of his cattle going into the feed-lot and his fat cattle prices in order to make his feeding operation profitable.

When I say profitable, I mean a reasonable return for his grain and labor.

So that you will know what increased feed costs mean, I am going to quote you some figures on cost of production. Corn in 1939 could be sealed at 57 cents. In 1940 corn could be sealed at 63 cents. Now in 1941 corn can be sealed at 71 to 73 cents, depending upon the location of the farm. What does that mean to the man who feeds your cattle? With alfalfa hay at \$12 a ton and corn at 56 cents a bushel, the feed cost of producing 100 pounds of beef on a two-year-old steer is \$9.25. With

corn at 63 cents and alfalfa hay at \$12 a ton, the cost of producing that same 100 pounds of beef is \$10. With corn at 72 cents and alfalfa hay at \$12, it costs \$11.50. These are feed costs alone. Now on yearling steers it costs \$9 to produce 100 pounds of beef with corn at 57 cents and alfalfa hay at \$12. With corn at 63 cents it costs \$9.75 and with corn at 73 cents it costs \$11. Now these are feed costs alone. These figures do not take into consideration death losses and labor costs and interest. You must add to these costs at least \$2 per 100 pounds of gain for labor and other

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costs. As you can see, if the Corn Belt farmer's cost of his stocker and feeder cattle is \$10 per 100 pounds, he can sell that animal for \$10, providing his cost of gain is below the selling price of the animal when finished, but if his cost of gain is \$12 per 100 pounds, he certainly cannot sell an animal costing \$11 per 100 pounds at \$11 per 100 when the animal is finished and ready for slaughter without losing money.

'Grain Farmer' Group Created

I hope that you will not think that I am wholly opposed to the present agricultural program. It has been of great value to the Corn Belt states but it has created in the Corn Belt states a number of what we call grain farmers. Corn has value only when it is consumed by livestock and driven to the market for slaughter for meat. If this is true, doesn't it follow then that the price of livestock and meat products should determine the value of corn or at least that there should be a relationship between them. This relationship does not exist at the present time. I believe you can now see where it would be to the advantage of the western producer to co-operate with the Corn Belt feeder on farm legislation. It is going to affect directly the prices on your cattle. To give you a direct example of the problems that we as feeders have—my brother and I have quite a few cattle on feed: We have one lot of cattle that I am quite concerned about at this time. It is made up of Wyoming cattle. They were purchased as yearlings September 29, 1941, at \$11 per 100 pounds. These cattle were turned out on grass until the first of November. Then they were put on feed. It is costing us at the present time, including feed and labor costs, better than \$13.75 for every hundred pounds of gain we put on those cattle. Those cattle will probably be fed from eight to ten months. The cost of our gain is not going to get lower, because our neighbors from whom we are buying corn can seal their corn for 72 cents a bushel. They aren't going to sell it to us for less than that. You wouldn't have to be much of a mathematician to figure out what we have to get for those cattle in order to make a small profit. We will have a tremendous investment in those cattle when they come to market.

There is something else that the farm program is doing, and this directly affects you people. There has been a premium placed on restriction of acres planted to grains. As a result there has been a tremendous increase in the

amount of roughage produced and pastures created in the Corn Belt states. There has been and is a definite trend toward increase in the farm herds of beef cattle. As these farm herds increase, the demand for cattle grown in the West to take to the feed-lot will be affected. You are primarily the producer of the raw material which the Corn Belt farmer takes and, by adding to the raw material the thing that he produces, makes into beef that is more palatable, more tasty, and increasingly desired by the consuming public.

In this regard I can't mention increased consumption of beef without mentioning and complimenting Mr. Pollock of the National Live Stock and Meat Board on the very fine work that he is doing. I can say without fear of contradiction that the Meat Board is the most valuable organization working for our industry. The work alone that the Meat Board is doing in educating the purchasers of food for our armed forces as to the value of meat in the diet is of inestimable value. The Meat Board is also educating them as to how to prepare the meat purchased to make it the most tasty.

The purchase of meat products by the army and navy is having and is going to have in the future an affect upon our market. The effect was certainly evident during 1941. Those vested with the authority to purchase meat products for our armed forces are restricted by rules and specifications. No doubt many of you are familiar with the market condition that existed on long-fed weighty beeves during the greater part of 1940. These weighty long-fed cattle lost the feeders large amounts of money. We had many long-fed choice-to-prime loads of cattle that cost no more on the hook in the packing-house than bologna bulls. The army could not and did not change its specifications so that it could buy this choice beef. It was considered too wasteful. We have available greater supplies of certain kinds of beef during the various seasons of the year. If the specifications governing the purchase of beef for our armed forces could be flexible enough to allow the purchase of that kind of beef of which there is the greatest supply it would certainly act as a stabilizing influence for our market. Mr. Mollin has done much work with Colonel Logan and his assistants. Co-operation by the Corn Belt feeders would be of assistance to him.

Price Standards Must Be Fair

In Washington at the present time consideration is being given price con-

trol legislation. I am sure that none of us are endeavoring to cash in on the war, but we must have price standards which will pay expenses and return some profit to the producer. That is only simple justice and necessity. I am sure none of us want a repetition of the tremendously inflated values of World War No. 1 and the disastrous deflation that ensued. I am sure all of us are willing to accept the inconvenience of a ceiling on prices, because that would be a small price to pay for the avoidance of postwar bankruptcy; but any ceiling that is placed on our products must be in relationship to the things that affect our cost and our returns. We have been asked repeatedly by President Roosevelt to produce more food. I quote from a statement made by President Roosevelt to the Farm Bureau:

"Farmers must not only provide food for the United States, they must provide food for England and other nations resisting aggression and reserves of food for the future. I am confident that the farmers of this country will produce this food. I am equally confident that the nation will see to it that agriculture receives a fair return for its efforts and also the protection necessary to prevent a repetition of the collapse that followed the last war."

The price control legislation which is now pending before the Senate and which has been passed by the House, certainly does not provide a fair return for the effort that we have been asked to make if a ceiling were placed at the minimum base. Again, I would like to refer to my previous statements regarding cost of production. If a ceiling is placed on beef below the cost of production, there is only one way that the Corn Belt feeder can feed your stocker and feeder cattle, and that is by providing a sufficient margin between the cost of his green cattle and the cattle when they are marketed for slaughter. The present cattle in the feed-lots of the Corn Belt states will lose large amounts of money if too low a ceiling is placed on beef animals. Certainly this problem now facing us is one that calls for co-operative effort on the part of the western producer and the Corn Belt feeder.

I have been working with your Secretary and our good friends in Washington, such as Senator O'Mahoney from Wyoming and Senator Butler and Representative Coffee from Nebraska, on this problem. If the authority under the bill is not going to be used to the disadvantage of the feeder of beef cattle,

Northern Colorado Hereford Breeders' Association Sale

APRIL 3, 1942 ←

Stow Witwer, Greeley, Colo., Mgr.

WATCH FOR LIST OF OFFERINGS IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE PRODUCER

why then should it be necessary or advisable to have a provision in a bill where the ceiling on beef could be placed below cost of production. It is up to each and every one of us at this convention and throughout the Corn Belt states and the western range states to acquaint our senators and representatives as to the facts. It is my understanding that the Secretary of Agriculture has endeavored, and is endeavoring, to protect our interests.

In my remarks I have pointed out a few situations where I feel that co-operation between the western producer and the Corn Belt farmer would be advantageous. There are many more, and I feel sure that the Corn Belt feeder is ready and willing to co-operate with you people on problems of mutual interest.

RATE INCREASE CASE

DECISION IN THE MATTER OF the railroads' request for a 10 per cent increase in freight rates has not yet (February 23) been announced by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Hearings in the case were held in St. Louis, Missouri, beginning January 5, at which various livestock associations were represented by Charles E. Blaine, of Phoenix, Arizona. His summary of argument in opposition to any increases in livestock freight rates was as follows:

"The livestock industry, wholly unlike the majority of other industries

"1. Cannot control production so as to avoid substantial losses when prices drop below the cost of production or quickly step up production to secure the benefit of increased prices;

"2. Cannot control the prices it is forced to pay for materials and supplies used in its operation;

"3. Cannot fix the prices received for its livestock or the products thereof;

"4. Cannot pass increased costs on to the consumers of its products, but any increase in costs, such as freight rates, of necessity, increases the cost of and lowers the returns to the industry;

"5. Does not possess a 'big stick' and hence is without power to influence voluntary reductions in transportation charges; and

"6. Cannot escape the many and devastating weather or man-made hazards.

"The present freight rates are higher than ever before. They were prescribed by the commission as maximum reasonable rates on records closed in 1928 when farm values and market prices were substantially at their peak. However, before the rates became effective such values and prices declined sharply and thereafter collapsed to an all-time low in 1933 and 1934. Notwithstanding all of this, freight rates were increased in March, 1938, thus increasing the operating costs of the industry. Moreover, after such increase, both the volume of livestock traffic and the rail revenue thereon in the western district continued to decline. The average revenue per net ton yielded by the livestock traffic in 1940 exceeds by 29 per cent that of 1928 while on the grand total revenue carload freight the average revenue per net ton was .26 per cent lower in 1940 than in 1928. Consequently, the livestock traffic has been and is now bearing a disproportionate share of the whole burden of transportation. Therefore, it irresistibly follows that the present rates should not be further increased but on the other hand should be drastically reduced, thus restoring the traffic to the rail lines and thereby enhancing the revenues of the applicants.

"While the average values per head and market prices of livestock have increased since reaching their all-time

low point, the recovery has been slow, and the values and prices today are below those of 1928."

Organizations represented by Mr. Blaine were the American National Live Stock Association, National Wool Growers' Association, Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association, Highland Hereford Breeders' Association, Live Stock Traffic Association, and National Live Stock Marketing Association.

MARKETING IN CANADA

CANADIANS WHO MARKET THEIR cattle and hogs direct apparently get a better price for their animals than those who sell through markets, according to a study made by the Canadian Department of Agriculture.

Until about 1870, livestock marketed in Canada was slaughtered on farms or at local slaughtering plants, the study points out. Then with the growth of urban centers and the development of export outlets came packing plants and stockyards. For a time an increasing volume of livestock was sold through the stockyards, which had become important marketing centers. Later, the development of packing plants in producing areas and the advent of good roads and trucking reversed the movement. An increasing volume went direct to packing plants.

With this latter development came a fear among farmers that competition was insufficient to insure fair prices and that direct purchases gave packers an advantage in bargaining. Some farmers even feared that stockyards might disappear and all marketing become direct, putting packers in a still better position to take advantage of the situation.

The Canadian study does not, however, give the "difficult, if not impossible," answer to the question of what effect

ANNUAL SPRING SALE OF REGISTERED HEREFORDS CRAWFORD HEREFORD BREEDERS' ASS'N ARE OFFERING **79 BULLS** 50 OF SERVICEABLE AGES, 29 BULL CALVES (18 Sons and Grandsons of Battle Mischief 7th)

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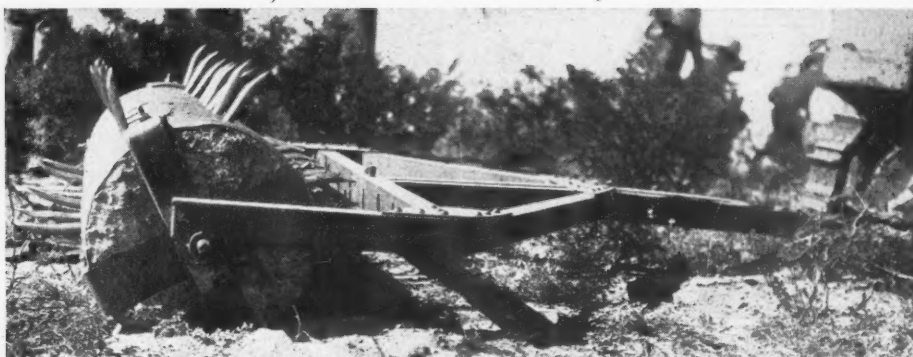
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The range land seeder developed by the regional office of the Grazing Service, Albuquerque, New Mexico, in operation. The seed have been scattered ahead of the spiked roller.

the elimination of stockyards would have, but confines its inquiry to a comparison of prices paid for livestock marketed through stockyards and direct to packing plants over a period of months or years. The report concludes:

"Finally, it is apparent that during the period covered by this survey the prices paid for livestock purchased under the alternative methods for which comparisons were made varied considerably both within and between markets. It cannot be said that packers consistently paid more for livestock purchased on one basis than on the other. It would appear, however, that, if marketing costs are deducted from sales made through stockyards in an effort to determine the net returns to farmers, the result in the case of hogs favored direct selling. In the case of cattle the advantages were less conclusive but on the side of direct selling. In the case of sheep and lambs the brevity of the period for which information was available and the extreme differences found to exist prevent any general conclusion being drawn."

EXTENSIVE RANGE RESEEDING PROGRAM

LAND-MANAGEMENT AGENCIES of the Department of the Interior will carry out during 1942 the most extensive reseeding program ever developed for western range lands, according to Lee Muck, head of the Office of Land Utilization.

Plans call for reseeding more than 1,000,000 acres of public land this year, as compared with approximately 200,000 acres reseeded in 1941. Field offices have on hand a huge store of seed, much of which was harvested from seed plots and range areas which produced excellent yields in 1941 because of favorable moisture conditions.

Land to be reseeded will be in areas where grass production is now scant or non-existent. Acreages reseeded will be available for limited grazing after the first growing season. This reseeded land will help to relieve grazing pressure on adjoining overstocked ranges, and result in the production of better

animals, a higher survival of calf and lamb crops, and more pounds of meat, says the department.

The 263,000,000 acres of range lands under the jurisdiction of the department are grazed from six to seven months out of each year by 2,000,000 head of cattle and horses and over 12,000,000 head of sheep and goats.

NEW LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER GOALS

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION goals for cattle, hogs, and sheep, as planned by the Department of Agriculture, revised after Pearl Harbor, are announced as follows:

Cattle and calves: Slaughter of 28,000,000 head, the same as estimated in the original September goal, compared with a 1941 slaughter of 25,905,000. Marketing equal to estimated increases in numbers is recommended to stabilize numbers and to increase the available supply of meat.

Sheep: Slaughter of 22,900,000 sheep and lambs, the same as estimated in September, compared with a 1941 slaughter of 22,630,000 head.

Hogs: Slaughter of 83,000,000 head, compared with 79,300,000 head in the September goal and a 1941 slaughter of 72,500,000 head. Price is supported at 85 per cent of parity.

Lard: An increase of 300,000,000 pounds in 1942 by raising the yield of lard from hogs slaughtered and changing relationship between lard and meat prices. Increase in hog numbers is keeping pace with demand.

Wool: Sheep to be shorn the same as the September estimate—51,200,000 sheep. The 1941 figure was 48,900,000.

Revised goals for marketings in 1942 from Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, call for an increase of approximately 17 per cent over 1940 as against an increase in the original goals of approximately 20 per cent. In Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, the Dakotas, Ohio, and Wisconsin the marketings in the new goals would amount to about 115 per cent of 1940 marketings as against about 114 originally.

NORTHWEST NEBRASKA SALE

The Northwest Nebraska Hereford Breeders' Association in its sale and show on March 9 at Valentine, Nebraska, will offer sons and grandsons of Battle Mischief 7th, owned jointly by Clyde Buffington, Crawford, Nebraska, and Ed Belsky, Merriman, Nebraska. This bull sired the champion heifer at Denver last year which was bred by Mr. Belsky, and the champion bull this year, bred by Mr. Buffington. The heifer was sold to Taussig Bros., Parshall, Colorado, and the bull to the Bear Claw Ranch, Dayton, Wyoming.

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(This new product has incorporated in it some of the organisms formerly contained in the pink eye and pulmonary bacterins)

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(To be used for treatment and prevention of calf scours)

One 10 cc. syringe and two needles.....	\$1.35
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MARKETS

LIVESTOCK MARKETS IN THE PAST THIRTY DAYS

By H. W. FRENCH

SLIGHT WIDENING OF THE PRICE
Spread for beef steers was noted at Chicago where offerings from 1,100 pounds down found the broadest demand, as heavier kinds were rather numerous and fluctuated more sharply than the light weights. There were many good-to-choice loads and a comparatively small number of common and low-medium grades. Short-feds showed some increase in volume, but some extremely heavy arrivals from the old crop put in an appearance and many weighed above 1,600 pounds while there were a few upward of 1,800 pounds, extreme loads averaging in excess of a ton. Over 38 per cent of the steers received the first week of February graded good, while combined choice and prime made up slightly more than 34 per cent.

The 1942 goal for marketings of cattle as set by the government remained at 28,000,000 head and for sheep and lambs slightly in excess of 51,000,000 head, but the January suggestion for production of hogs was boosted 10 per cent over last September's goal and the new figure is 83,000,000 head. Indications point to a support of this program and the livestock producer undoubtedly will do his utmost to supply all the meat animals desired. It is believed that the general demand will broaden and cause reasonable support to the market.

West coast demand, especially for steers, was outstanding at Denver and is expected to continue far into the future. Advices from the west coast indicate that, because of the big demand for beef, buyers may find it necessary to go as far east as the Missouri River markets

to supply their wants, and already some California packers have made purchases in the Nebraska area. With this western outlet broadening, it may reduce the number of good steers available for eastern demand at many of the big markets. It is evident that steers are in a strong position.

This may not be so convincing as far as heifers are concerned, because double competition is not apparent for young she-stock. Another factor is the continued liberal supply at many of the markets of short-fed heifers, and with too many of any one kind available buyers keep control of the situation. Long-fed heifers have been so scarce that prices held well without an exceptional amount of competition. Cows have not been abundant around the circuit and there was very broad demand for fleshy cutters and low-cost beef cows as compared with only a fair outlet for the strictly good grades.

Attractive Prices Bring Animals to Market

Slaughter of cattle and calves under federal inspection during January was nearly 200,000 larger than a year earlier, while hog slaughter showed a gain of over 1,300,000 and sheep and lamb slaughter was almost equal to last year. Attractive prices for live animals, with the possible exception of lambs, brought extensive supplies to the markets and concentration points, so that there was no shortage despite the big needs of the armed forces and the civilian population.

Beginning the third week of February most of the beef steers at Chicago were steady to 25 cents higher than at mid-January, but some of the common and medium grades were up more. Heifers were largely weak to 25 cents lower and some of the short-feds of medium-to-

good grade were at least 50 cents off. It was a two-way market for cows, and the good kinds looked steady to 25 cents lower while common and medium offerings showed 25 to 50 cents' upturn. Cannery and cutters shared the upturn shown by low-cost beef cows. Bulls continued in good demand but prices were generally steady to 25 cents lower. Calves and vealers fluctuated very little the past month and on the whole ruled steady.

Stormy weather prevailed in some sections and cattle arrivals gave evidence of muddy feed-lots. Snow covered much of the beet tops in the sugar beet areas and some of the cheap feed of this nature was lost to the cattle feeder. Very few steers are run on beet tops, but this feed is usually consumed by cows and bulls. Rations for grain-fed steers had to be increased during the recent low temperatures to avoid heavy shrinks, and reports indicated the inability of many cattle en route to market to hold weights satisfactorily.

There were no fed steers at Chicago during the past month above \$14.90—a price which was paid for choice-to-prime 1,108- to 1,114-pound offerings. A fair quota with slightly more weight scored \$14.60 to \$14.75 while any number of choice offerings were to be had at \$14.25 to \$14.50, those at the latter figure in some instances averaging above 1,200 pounds and most of those at the inside price averaging slightly above 1,300 pounds. Many good-to-choice offerings from 1,100 to 1,350 pounds scored \$12.50 to \$14.

Another Story On the Bigger Weights

When it came to bigger weights, another story was told and anything around 1,450 to 1,500 pounds had to be strictly choice to make \$13.75. Good steers averaging 1,636 to 1,650 pounds scored \$12.75 to \$13 and medium-to-good 1,700- to 1,729-pound weights landed at \$11.75 to

Platte Valley Hereford Auction

SHOUP & SONS, Sutherland ← Principal Consignors → H. & H. KERR, Brady

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Females

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Platte Valley Sales Company Pavilion, North Platte, Nebraska
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63
Bulls

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\$12. Good 1,835-pound offerings cleared at \$11.35 and medium arrivals averaging 2,175 pounds sold down to \$10.50. Other extremely heavy steers were to be had at \$11 to \$11.25. Many medium short-feds of much more desired weights sold at \$11 to \$11.65 and hardly anything went for slaughter below \$10. Heavies fed six to twelve months bulked at \$12.50 to \$13.50.

Grain-fed mixed yearlings sold as high at \$13.90 and outstanding 1,100-pound straight Iowa fed heifers topped at \$14.25 while 1,042 to 1,086-pound heifers out of Nebraska cleared at \$13.90. There were a few other strictly choice loads at \$13.25 to \$13.75 but the bulk of the crop sold downward from \$12.75 and many medium-to-good short-feds cleared at \$10.50 to \$12; some low medium kinds landed at \$9.50 to \$10. Good beef cows were quoted generally at \$9 to \$9.75 while medium kinds sold usually at \$8.50 to \$8.75, strong weight cutters often selling as high as \$8.25 and best canners at the high time selling up to \$7.25. Very thin light canners sold as low as \$6. Most of the medium-to-good heavy sausage bulls made \$9.75 to \$10.25 but some scored \$10.35 to \$10.40 and common kinds were available below \$9.25. Most often choice vealers were taken at and around \$15.

Choice-to-prime 1,100- to 1,250-pound fed steers at Omaha topped at \$14 and some others reached \$13.90, while among those at \$13.50 were some averaging 1,327 pounds. Bulk of the good steers from 1,400 pounds sold at \$11.25 to \$12.50 and one lot averaging 1,626 pounds scored \$12.50. Many of the 1,250- to 1,325-pound offerings fed four to five months landed at \$11.75 and some medium offerings were to be had at \$10.50 to \$11. Medium-to-strictly-choice heifers sold at \$9.25 to \$12.75. Common-to-good cows made \$7.50 to \$9.50, including some 1,117-pound grain-feds at \$9.35. Medium-to-good bulls usually sold at \$9 to \$9.75.

Kansas City reported no fed steers above \$13.75 and those at that price very

light in weight. Some medium weights sold up to \$13.50 and any number of heavy arrivals cleared at \$12 to \$13, including some choice 1,475-pound Missouri's at \$12.25. Medium-to-good short-feds usually made \$10 to \$11.50. Mixed yearlings, however, topped at \$14 and others reached \$13.65 while best heifers were cleared at \$13 to \$13.25. Sausage bulls in the main went downward from \$9.50. Medium-to-good cows sold largely at \$8.25 to \$9.50.

Grain-fed steers at Denver topped at \$13.25 and some others scored \$13. West coast buyers took any number of strictly good loads at \$12 to \$12.75, paid \$13 for some, and gave \$11 to \$11.75 for medium kinds. In other years California buyers gave preference to steers below 1,100 pounds, but this season their purchases were largely of 1,150- to 1,300-pound offerings. They are taking cattle with more finish than in other years. Cows topped at \$9.75 and some others scored \$9.25 to \$9.50 but medium-to-good offerings usually cleared at \$8.25 to \$9. Many heavy sausage bulls sold at \$9.25 to \$9.75 but some made \$10.00 to \$10.15. Vealers hit a new high of \$16 for the first time in many years. Short-fed heifers usually went at \$10.50 to \$11.25 and the better grades landed at \$11.50 to \$12.50.

Sioux City reported strictly choice 1,060-pound steers as high as \$14, some good-to-choice 1,458- to 1,590-pound arrivals making \$12 to \$12.85, although medium short-feds sold as low as \$9.50. Best heifers scored \$12.25 and some strictly good cows made \$9.50 to \$9.75. Bulls went downward from \$9.75 usually. Choice 1,070- to 1,081-pound steers made \$13.75 to \$13.85 at St. Joseph where the bulk grading medium to good cleared at \$10.25 to \$12.75; some choice mixed yearlings landed at \$13.10 to \$13.50. Not many bulls passed \$9.75. Some choice fed steers at St. Paul were reported at \$13.50 to \$14. During the second week of February there were around fifty cars

of Canadian steers on the St. Paul market, with most of the medium-to-good kinds at \$10 to \$11.50.

Stockers and Feeders Lag at Chicago But Get Good Action Elsewhere

Stocker and feeder cattle and calves at Chicago were not very plentiful, but the demand was not very broad for the kinds available and prices around the middle of February favored a weaker basis and were called steady to 25 cents off from a month earlier. The price tendency at Missouri River markets and at Denver was higher and supplies were immediately absorbed. Some buyers sought warmed-up cattle and others gave preference to straight range offerings, so that sellers enjoyed good action on the thin as well as the fleshy offerings.

Average cost of stocker and feeder cattle at Chicago the first week of February at \$10.27 stood 43 cents higher than a year ago, while the Kansas City average cost at \$10.59 was 62 cents above a year ago. For the month of January the cost at Chicago figured \$10.36 against \$9.70 a year ago, while at Chicago the costs for the two years were \$10.57 and \$10.16, respectively. There was a much greater gain for similar periods in 1942 as compared with a year ago at St. Paul where more of the lower grades were available.

Some medium-to-good 650- to 800-pound steers went out from Chicago at \$9.50 to \$10.75, but the number of better kinds including yearlings was very scarce. Omaha reported some choice yearling steers at \$12 to \$12.50 and good-to-choice steers below 900 pounds at \$10.85 to \$11.75 while medium grades frequently made \$9.25 to \$10. Strictly choice 500-pound steer calves topped at \$14, other good-to-choice lots making \$12 to \$13.25 and some heifer calves as high as \$12.

Medium-to-choice steers went on country account at Kansas City from \$9.25 to \$11.85 and choice 610-pound yearlings reached \$12.50. Choice 363- to 537-pound

Northwest Nebraska Hereford Breeders' Ass'n Sale and Show March 9, 1942, Valentine, Neb.

85 Bulls—65 Are of Serviceable Age. 20 Juniors

Many of these bulls were reserved for this sale. The offering as a whole is the best we have ever been able to make. Herd bull problems can be solved here. A hot contest among the Juniors is awaiting the spectators. Among the 10 heifers offered are some of our best. Sons and grandsons of Battle Mischief 7th, Pioneers, Bocaldos, Onward Dominos, WHR's, and other prominent families. Judging at 9 A. M. Sale at 1 P. M. Col. A. W. Thompson, Auctioneer. For catalog, address, Ed Belsky, Merriman, Nebraska.

A SANDHILLS-BRED OFFERING

steer calves scored \$13.65 to \$14. Most of the stocker and feeder steers at St. Joseph made \$9.50 to \$11, some good ones topping at \$11.75 in the absence of choice loads. Good steer calves made \$12 and comparable heifer calves went at \$11. Sioux City quoted medium-to-good steers on country account at \$9.50 to \$12, with good steer calves at \$12.35 and good heifer calves at \$11.35. Common and medium steers at St. Paul were taken out at \$7.75 to \$9.25, good feeders at \$10 to \$10.50, and a choice kind at \$11.25, with choice yearlings scoring \$12 while choice calf-weight heifers were reported at \$11.25 to \$11.50.

During February many of the good-to-choice stocker and feeder steers at Denver were cleared at \$10.75 to \$11.50, with a few loads at \$11.65 to \$11.75 in the absence of choice light yearlings. Some of those at \$11.75 were from Wyoming. Common-to-medium kinds bulked at \$8.50 to \$10.50. Several lots of good-to-choice heifers went out at \$9.50 to \$10.75 and very light weights reached \$11.15. Common-to-good cows went to the country at \$6 to \$7.85. Choice steer calves were not available but good kinds were secured at \$11.50 to \$12.50 and 300-pound good-to-choice mixed steer and heifer calves topped at \$13.50 while best light heifer calves made \$12 to \$12.25.

Hogs Hold the Spotlight

Hogs held the attention of the livestock industry as the prices zoomed upward. Before the crest was reached, Chicago tops hit the highest level for February in sixteen years and the highest for any month since August, 1937. Supplies have been moderate and outlet broad and in many sections the influence of the west coast demand was dominant, so much so that prices west from Chicago were sustained on unusually high levels.

Pork products in cold storage on February 1 in every instance were smaller than a year ago, and this condition together with sharp advances in wholesale fresh pork prices made it easy for the market for live hogs to continue a dizzy gait. Lard holdings, although larger than the five-year average on February 1 were over 99,000,000 under a year earlier and even showed a drop of 87,000,000 from a month ago.

Even Friday the thirteenth did not disturb hog shippers, as it was on February thirteenth that hogs at Chicago first reached \$13. Before the close of January best hogs sold up to \$12 and then reacted slightly only to recover quickly and soar to \$12.50 the first market day in February. Prices at the beginning of the third week in February were largely \$1.40 to \$1.60 higher than at mid-January on anything above 160 pounds, the lighter weights showing only \$1 to \$1.25 upturn, and at that time a new high of \$13.10 was registered. Denver reported sales up to \$13.05 for a new high and the Missouri River markets were not far behind. Pigs of medium-to-good grade

were quoted 50 cents to \$1.25 higher at Chicago, where sows were mostly around \$1.75 up from a month earlier.

The price range narrowed considerably and good-to-choice hogs of nearly every weight above 160 pounds sold almost in the same notch, the late bulk scoring \$12.60 to \$13.10, although nothing over 300 pounds reached \$13. Good-to-choice 300- to 450-pound sows were available at \$12 to \$12.55 and those around 500 pounds were taken from \$11.90 down.

Fed Lambs Carry Too Much Weight

Around one and a quarter million head of lambs were in the feed-lots of northern Colorado, the Arkansas Valley, and the Scottsbluff areas around the middle of February, or approximately 250,000 more than at the same time a year ago. The big end of the supply on feed was in northern Colorado, where about 725,000 remained, and about half that number was left in the Scottsbluff section.

Fed lambs have been coming with too much weight in most instances, but often in the early part of the season feeders sorted off the big lambs and marketed them first, so that in the opinion of sellers at the various markets the prevailing condition is no more pronounced than in other years. It is admitted that buyers have most need for lambs from 95 pounds down, but to get the desired finish and expected yield they are compelled to take them with fair freedom up to 100 pounds and bigger, although discounts pile up rapidly when weights pass 105.

Slaughter-lamb prices were hit severely, and at the opening of the third week of February sales at Chicago were largely 75 cents to \$1 lower as compared with mid-January. Yearling wethers were not very numerous but they sold steady to 25 cents lower. Fat ewes, on the other hand, were in broad demand under a light supply and prices were boosted materially, late sales showing mostly 25

to 50 cents' advance in the face of the decline for lambs, and at many of the markets beyond Chicago the advance was even greater.

Almost immediately following the middle of January strictly choice 88- to 90-pound fed lambs at Chicago reached \$13 and then the market displayed a sliding tendency so that within a short time nothing was eligible to \$12.50; finally the top was forced down to \$12.10 soon after mid-February. The bulk of good-to-choice fed lambs for the first week in February were to be had at \$12 to \$12.40 and weights generally were from 105 pounds down. Later there were many 100- to 118-pound good-to-choice lambs at \$11.25 to \$11.50, although many 92- to 96-pound kinds at the same time scored \$12. Some extremely heavy lambs lacking finish had to sell at \$11 and below. Light and medium weight summer shorn lambs turned at \$11.50 to \$11.85, and recently shorn kinds were to be had at \$10.25 to \$10.75.

Choice woolled yearling wethers reached \$10.50 at Chicago and Kansas City. Chicago reported choice fed range ewes from 118 to 127 pounds at \$6.65 to \$7 and other markets frequently had sales at \$6.50 to \$6.75. Several loads of good-to-choice 123- to 139-pound fed ewes at Denver went on west coast account at \$6.60-6.65; choice trucked lots, \$6.85.

Hardly any feeding lambs were available at Chicago, but at Omaha where supplies were of fair volume the market on country account broke mostly 25 to 50 cents, while at Denver feeding lambs looked weak to 25 cents off. Early in the period some feeding lambs at Omaha scored \$11.75 to \$11.90 but later choice kinds were to be had at \$11.25. Good-to-choice feeding lambs at Denver sold usually at \$11 to \$11.50, with some up to \$11.65 early and medium-to-good kinds late at \$10 to \$10.75.

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When cattle or hogs are bothered with itch, flies, mosquitoes, or other insect pests, they will not gain weight as quickly as when they are rid of these discomforts. Animals that are free from skin irritants are comfortable and contented. They naturally grow and fatten more quickly and look better when marketed.

The Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine will free your cattle of grubs and other skin irritants. If you own one of these machines, your stock will not use fences and buildings to scratch on. They will use this machine, which curries and oils them at the same time.

The Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine is sold in every state where cattle or hogs are raised. If you are a cattle feeder or breeder you owe it to yourself to see this proven machine.

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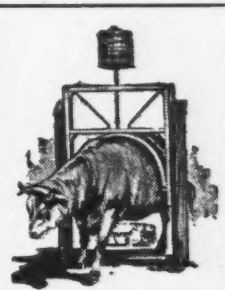
Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine Co., Pender, Nebraska.

Dear Sirs: I have been using two of your machines for the past year and can say I am well pleased with the results. They keep lice and warbles off of the cattle and they are much more contented. This summer I installed one out in the pasture field and it kept the flies off of the cattle. While installing the machine, the cattle would watch their chance to use it before it was completely installed.

(Signed) E. G. Petty, Prospect, Ohio.

See your local dealer or write to the factory for prices and descriptive literature.

Automatic Currying & Dipping Machine Co., Pender, Neb.



We invite investigation. Write to any feeder, rancher, or dairyman who is a user of the Automatic Currying and Dipping Machine.

WOOL USE BY MILLS AT RECORD; HIDES QUIET

By H. W. F.

STIMULATED BY LARGE ORDERS for wool goods for the armed forces of this country and by increased incomes of consumers, mill consumption of wool rose to record levels in 1941. Since June, 1940, the domestic wool situation has been largely dominated by the defense program. Consumption of apparel wool through most of the year was at an annual rate of 1,000,000,000 pounds, grease basis, compared with the five-year average (1935-39) of 575,000,000 pounds, grease basis.

Mill consumption of wool in the first quarter of 1942 will be limited to 80 per cent of the rate which prevailed in the first half of 1941 under a wool conservation program of the Office of Production Management. Prospective large military requirements must be met and consumption for civilians may be restricted to 40 to 50 per cent of the quantity used in 1941.

Temporary ceiling prices for raw wool, wool tops, and yarn were established last December at the highest prices which prevailed between October 1 and December 6, 1941. For most raw wools the ceiling prices probably are higher than at any time since early 1929. Revised schedules covering wool and wool prod-

ucts will be issued when detailed studies have been completed. The 1941 farm income from wool estimated at \$143,000,000 was the largest since 1918 and for 1942 may be as large or larger than 1941.

The Boston wool market was more active the first week of February, following the announcement of the awards of new government contracts for wool goods, but toward mid-month the trade became rather quiet. Demand slackened for domestic greasy shorn wools but some small quantities were needed to piece out stocks on hand and prices were firm. Domestic scoured and pulled wools were in fair demand. There was some inquiry for Australian and South African merino wools and moderate quantities changed hands.

Fine combing Ohio delaines went at 45 to 47 cents, in the grease, with fine clothing at 38 to 40 cents. Graded half blood combing bright fleeces made 46 to 48 cents and graded combing three-eighths and quarter blood bright wools made 51 to 52 cents. Lighter shrinking Virginia wools sold at 54 cents. Low quarter common and braid wools scored 51 cents.

Fine territory wool bulking good combing length with a fair percentage of staple length was quoted at \$1.13 to \$1.15, scoured basis. Fine wools of average-to-good French combing sold at \$1.10 to \$1.13. Fine clothing wool made \$1.02 to \$1.05. Small quantities of graded half blood French combing went at \$1.06 to

\$1.08. Twelve-month Texas wool scored \$1.10 to \$1.15, scoured basis, or around 44 to 48 cents, in the grease, for 58 to 60 per cent shrinking wools. Fall Texas wools made 97 per cent to \$1, scoured basis, or around 40 to 44 cents, in the grease, for wools shrinking 56 to 59 per cent.

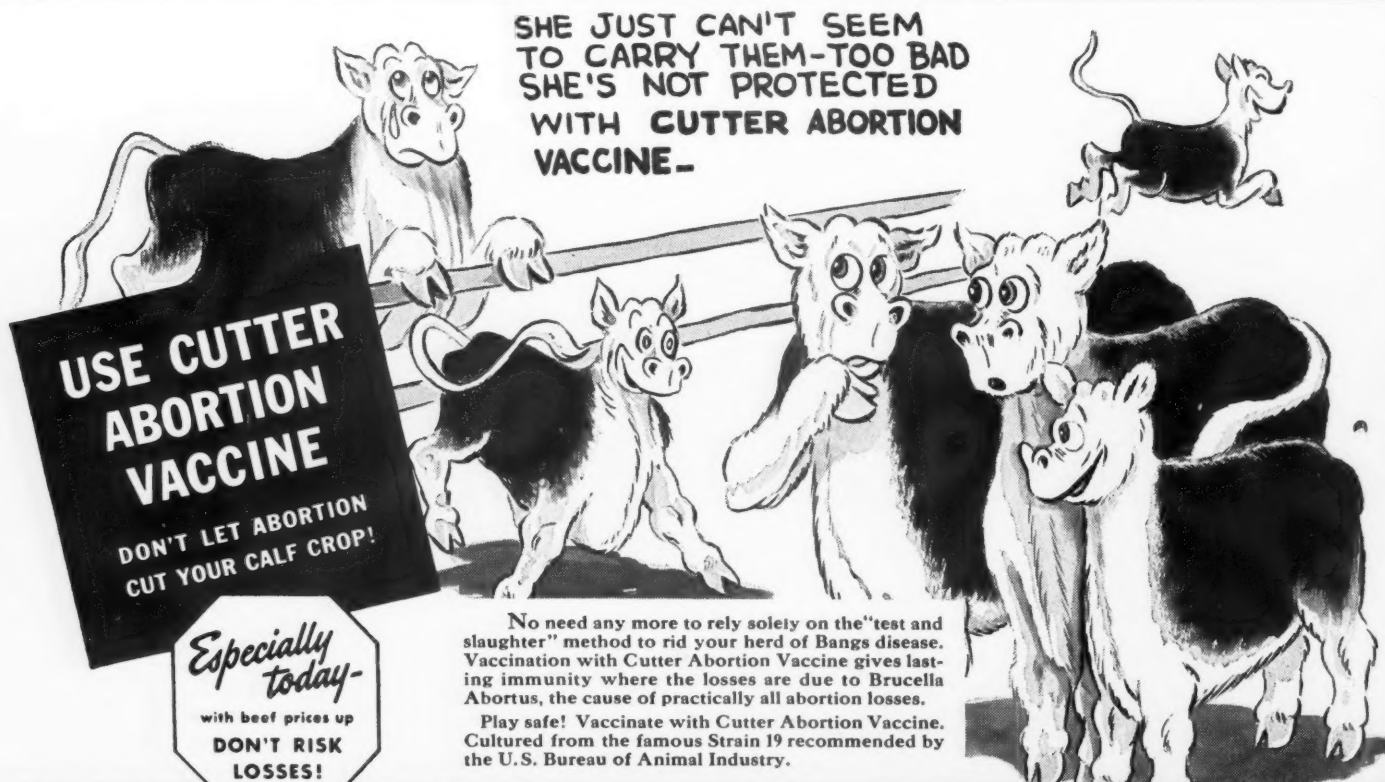
Hides

There was a very quiet situation during the past month in the hide market. Allocation of hides by the big packers was limited. Lack of activity was an outstanding feature. Futures were inactive and it is reported that from now on dealing will be restricted to liquidation of outstanding contracts. Country hide trade also was rather slow. Prices on the whole were stationary and most classes held at ceiling prices. Few changes are anticipated in the near future.

Late February quotations were as follows: Heavy and light native steer hides, 15½ cents; butt-brand steer, 14½ cents; heavy and light native cow, 15½ cents; branded cow, 14½ cents; Colorado steer, 14 cents; and native bull, 12 cents. Packer calfskins were quoted at 23½ to 27 cents, with packer kip-skins at 20 cents.

Country hide quotations follow: all-weights, 14 cents; extremes, 15 cents; bull, 9¾ to 10 cents; and branded hides, 13½ to 14 cents.

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TO CARRY THEM—TOO BAD
SHE'S NOT PROTECTED
WITH CUTTER ABORTION
VACCINE—**



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CUT YOUR CALF CROP!**

*Especially
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with beef prices up
**DON'T RISK
LOSSES!**

No need any more to rely solely on the "test and slaughter" method to rid your herd of Bangs disease. Vaccination with Cutter Abortion Vaccine gives lasting immunity where the losses are due to Brucella Abortus, the cause of practically all abortion losses.

Play safe! Vaccinate with Cutter Abortion Vaccine. Cultured from the famous Strain 19 recommended by the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

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LIVESTOCK AT STOCKYARDS

	1942	January 1941	Five-Year Average 1937-41
RECEIPTS—			
Cattle*	1,321,325	1,135,659	1,145,202
Calves	467,281	464,641	483,427
Hogs	3,703,565	3,039,446	2,980,857
Sheep	1,790,983	1,721,439	1,843,090
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—			
Cattle*	477,110	417,896	407,319
Calves	183,268	186,923	169,527
Hogs	1,032,801	880,840	841,136
Sheep	754,216	714,116	740,411
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—			
Cattle*	232,145	194,067	171,552
Calves	77,789	72,056	47,787
Hogs	60,240	57,985	42,079
Sheep	197,337	148,344	117,900
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—			
Cattle*	1,057,159	891,329	
Calves	440,045	411,191	
Hogs	5,830,613	4,517,314	
Sheep	1,610,991	1,625,178	

CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES

	Feb. 16, 1942	Jan. 15, 1942	Feb. 14, 1941
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$19.00-20.00	\$20.00-21.00	\$19.00-21.00
Steer—Good	17.50-19.00	19.50-20.50	16.00-19.00
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	19.50-21.00	20.50-22.00	18.00-21.00
Steer—Good	18.00-19.50	20.00-21.00	15.50-19.00
Yearling Steer—Choice	20.00-21.50	21.50-22.50	18.00-20.00
Yearling Steer—Good	19.00-20.50	20.50-21.50	15.50-18.00
Cow—Commercial	16.00-16.50	16.00-16.50	13.50-14.50
Veal and Calf—Choice	20.00-21.00	22.00-24.00	18.50-19.50
Veal and Calf—Good	17.00-19.00	20.00-22.00	15.50-18.50
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lamb—Choice (all weights)	16.00-20.50	18.50-21.00	15.00-18.00
Lamb—Good	16.00-20.00	17.50-20.00	14.00-17.00
Ewe—Good	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00
Ewe—Commercial	8.50- 9.00	8.00- 9.00	8.00- 9.00
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loins—8-12 lb. average	23.50-24.50	19.00-20.00	16.00-17.00

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Feb. 16, 1942	Jan. 15, 1942	Feb. 17, 1941
Slaughter Steers—Choice (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$12.75-14.50	\$12.75-14.50	\$13.25-15.25
Slaughter Steers—Good	11.50-13.50	11.75-13.50	11.00-13.25
Slaughter Steers—Choice (900-1,100 lbs.)	13.75-14.75	13.40-14.50	13.25-14.75
Slaughter Steers—Good	11.75-13.75	12.00-13.75	11.00-13.25
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	9.75-11.75	10.00-12.00	9.00-11.00
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (750-900 lbs.)	11.75-13.75	12.00-14.50	11.00-14.75
Heifers—Good-Choice	11.00-14.00	11.50-14.50	9.50-13.00
Cows—Good	9.00- 9.75	9.00-10.00	7.50- 8.50
Vealers—Good-Choice	13.00-15.00	12.50-15.00	11.50-14.00
Calves—Good-Choice	10.00-11.25	10.00-11.50	8.50-10.00
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Good-Choice	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.25	9.25-11.25
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	8.50-10.50	8.50-10.50	7.50- 9.25
Hogs—Med. Weights (200-240 lbs.)	12.85-13.10	11.25-11.50	7.85- 8.10
Lambs—Good-Choice	11.50-12.10	12.40-12.85	10.65-10.85
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice	10.00-10.50	10.00-10.75	9.00- 9.50
Ewes—Good-Choice	6.00- 7.00	5.75- 6.75	5.50- 6.00

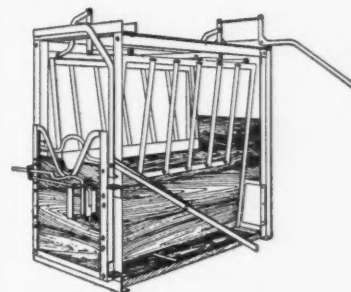
HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	Feb. 1, 1942†	Jan. 1, 1942	Feb. 1, 1941	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	119,411,000	109,703,000	89,084,000	76,828,000
Cured Beef*	19,581,000	25,775,000	19,538,000	19,294,000
Lamb and Mutton Frozen	8,383,000	7,936,000	4,699,000	5,164,000
Frozen Pork	284,724,000	176,154,000	378,378,000	276,061,000
Dry Salt Pork*	86,850,000	76,950,000	89,814,000	79,508,000
Pickled Pork*	232,102,000	215,434,000	271,735,000	273,929,000
Frozen & Cured Trimmings	120,846,000	104,645,000	98,283,000	98,331,000
Total Meats	871,897,000	716,597,000	951,531,000	829,115,000
Lard	201,011,000	181,237,000	299,644,000	184,634,000
Frozen Poultry	204,601,000	218,392,000	191,410,000	157,062,000
Creamery Butter	83,205,000	114,436,000	29,715,000	48,841,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	2,313,000	3,097,000	1,732,000	1,829,000

*Cured or in process of cure. †Subject to revision.

March, 1942

The Turner Dehorning Chute



A complete, modern chute for branding, vaccinating, dehorning, horn-branding, horn-weighting, blood-testing.

World's Best Cattle Machine
Portable Convenient

With sling and roller attachments. The perfect stocks for foot trimming, veterinary work, etc.

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Complete with set of figures 1 to 10, bottle of ink and full instructions, all for \$4.00, postpaid. Ear tags and complete line of supplies. Write for free catalog.
Breeders Supply Co. Council Bluffs Iowa

WHERE'S FERDINAND?

Pachy, the Elephant's foot, was beating time on the floor, humming "Ferd-i-nand, Fer-di-nand."

"Wonder where Ferdinand is?" he mused, "ought to be around somewhere."

"On the Baca Grant!" exclaimed Snooty, the Mountain Sheep. "Don't be silly. Ferdinand lived on a Spanish ranch."

"OK, wise guy," said Pachy, "this was a Spanish ranch. I heard the boss tell that man from Texas so yesterday."

"Just a mere 120 years ago, it was a Spanish ranch; that's all, practically yesterday," smirked the sheep. "And, now will you please shut up. I'm trying to think of a way to help the boss tell ranchers about that carload of bred heifers we got for sale."



Pachy was quiet, but only for a moment. Then he sang out,

"ANY HEIFERS TODAY?"

"Say, that's an idea, let's write a song about them for the radio. They sell bonds that way. Ought to work for good registered Herefords."

Baca Grant, Crestone, Colo.

Alfred Collins, Walter Oldland,
Ralph Murdock, Phil Robinson

VACCINATE NOW!

WITH
**GLOBE BLACKLEG
BACTERIN**

Whole Culture (Alum Treated)

One single dose of Globe Blackleg Bacterin meets the recommendation for lasting protection in calves of any age. Globe's 23 years of dependability assure unfailing quality!

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Bacterin in the Silver
Box"

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When the NEWNESS WEARS OFF

At Amarillo's
Show this
month. Showing
and Selling
PAINTER BULL
CALVES

Somewhere along the line a new set of bulls stops being for admiration only; becomes, instead, a working unit helping you turn off better beef animals. 'TIS THEN THAT PAINTER BULLS TRULY COME INTO THEIR OWN.

ROUND THE RANGE

WESTERN RANGE AND LIVESTOCK REPORT

WESTERN WINTER RANGES ON

February 1 were in good condition, although some decline had taken place in January, and livestock was wintering in good to very good condition, suffering only light losses, according to the Denver regional livestock office of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Ranges formerly snow-covered were partially open by late January.

The range condition rating as reported was the highest for February 1 since 1928. A large part of the northern winter grazing area that was snow-covered in late December and early January was open to grazing late in January. Considerable feeding was necessary, but generally hay and other feed supplies were ample.

Winter ranges were mostly open and in good condition in the Dakotas, eastern Montana, eastern Wyoming, and western Nebraska. Ranges were snow-covered in south-central and southwestern Montana, western and south-central Wyoming, and the mountain and foothill sections of Colorado. Kansas had good pastures and very good wheat pastures, which were available late in January. Oklahoma pastures were in fair to good condition, with grain pastures damaged by freezes. Texas ranges and pastures were in good condition except in the central and southern districts, where feeding had been necessary. New Mexico winter ranges were in good condition, with little feeding. Oregon and Washington ranges were mostly snow covered during January but were in good condition, with ample moisture. Idaho ranges were open to grazing late in January, with favorable prospects for spring feed. Utah and Nevada winter ranges were reported in good to very good condition, with most ranges open in late January. Feeding was heavy in the Northwest during January, but hay and feeds were generally ample. Arizona ranges were in good condition. California ranges and pastures were well above average condition, with favorable prospects for February and March pasturage.

Condition of western ranges on February 1, 1942, was 85 per cent, compared with 88 on January 1, 82 a year ago, and 74 for the 1932-41 average.

Losses in cattle and calves in early January snows and storms were light, but weather conditions caused some shrinkage in condition. Cattle were in good flesh, and with ample feed came through very well. Most cattle producing areas had ample feed for winter needs. Condition of cattle was the highest for the date since 1929.

Sheep were generally wintering well in the West, with only slight shrinkage in late December and early January

snow and storms. Death losses were light. Desert winter sheep ranges were reported in good condition, with ample stock water and only local areas snow-covered. Ewe bands were in good condition to stand severe weather and storms. Early lambing was completed in Arizona and California and the new crop lambs were developing well. Early lambing was well under way in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Texas sheep were in fair to good condition, with rain needed to make new feed in the sheep section.

MOVING CATTLE FROM RANCH TO RAILROAD

TRUCKS ARE BEING USED MORE

and more to replace the trail herd on the Jornada Experimental Range, according to Fred N. Ares, superintendent of the range, which is a branch of the Southwestern Forest and Range Experiment Station in New Mexico.

Not only are trucks used to haul market-bound cattle to the railroad but small loading chutes have been built at strategic points on the range where calves are separated from the cows and hauled in light trailers to a central point, usually the headquarters ranch. There they are assembled, worked, and weighed with the minimum of handling and are finally picked up in huge semi-trailer trucks and hauled to the railroad—fifty to sixty head to the load, depending on the size of the animals.

Trucking bids fair to become the accepted method of transporting cattle between points not served by railroads. Trailing cattle for distances over heavily grazed public driveways with water at irregular intervals and little feed available has exacted a heavy toll from the producers who are not located near shipping points. Not only is there the expense of trailing the herd but the shrinkage in weight resulting from the hard drive amounts to an important financial item now that practically all cattle are sold by weight. This shrinkage has been found to reach as high as 15 per cent on measured drives of between 75- and 100-mile distances in Catron County of western New Mexico. The shrinkage over the same routes by truck of the same class of livestock averaged only 5 per cent of the weight. For 400-pound calves or yearlings selling at 9 cents per pound this means in dollars and cents a difference of \$3.60 per head. The trucking cost over this route amounts to about \$1 per head for this class of livestock. After deducting the cost of hauling there is a net saving of around \$2.60 in favor of trucking.

Ares concludes from observations on the question that trucking is a practical, economical, and safe means of trans-

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

porting livestock from ranch to railroad shipping point. It is practical because the large fleets of trucks and semi-trailers especially made for this purpose can load and haul even a large herd to the nearest shipping point easily and in a very short time. It is economical because of the saving in time, labor, and most important, in weight shrinkage of the animals handled. It is safe because liability for loss or damage in transit is assumed by all the chartered and responsible trucking companies.

BULLETINS IN BRIEF

THE NUMBER OF CATTLE IN THE United States on January 1, 1942, was 74,607,000, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. This figure shows an increase of 4 per cent over that of January 1, 1941. Average price of cattle was \$55.13 per head—\$11.87 over a year earlier and third highest on record. It was exceeded in 1929 and 1930.

Sheep on farms numbered 49,204,000 head, or 3 per cent over last year. Average per head price was up \$1.89 from last year's figure of \$8.62. This price is the highest since 1930.

Hog population increased the most—12 per cent over 1941. Hogs numbered 60,526,000 head on January 1, 1942. average price of hogs advanced from \$8.34 last year to \$15.64 this year—the highest per head price in fifteen years, exceeded only in five other years.

AN FSA ENTERPRISE

A large-scale beef and dairy enterprise is to be set up by forty-five Nevada farmers on ranch land purchased by an association with funds loaned by the Department of Agriculture. The project will develop a 10,500-acre tract, formerly the Rodgers Ranch, on Humboldt River in Pershing County. Beef, dairy, and sheep enterprises, with some hogs and poultry, will be the main activities, according to the Farm Security Administration. FSA will make loans to individual farmers to buy good livestock for breeding. Under present plans, the association will buy the land and lease it to individual members. Rentals are expected ultimately to amortize the association's loan from the government. A farm manager will supervise the project.

COWS HAVE HORSE SENSE

Horses are given credit for having a lot of sense, but, according to W. H. Alison, farm adviser in Merced County, California, cows aren't so dumb, either. Alison, who represents the University of California extension service, says the advent of the walk-through milking barn is the proof. In the operating of a walk-through barn, several cows are in the barn at one time, the rest out in a corral.

"As fast as a cow is milked, the milker opens the stanchion and the cow walks on out to pasture. The milker then opens the door to the corral and calls out the name or number of the next cow. If he calls for Daisy, you'll see her start nosing her way through the crowd and in a few moments she is being milked. When every cow in a milking herd responds to her name, it's proof beyond doubt that cows have horse sense."

HOW TO TENDERIZE BEEF

To tenderize a one-and-one-half-inch-thick steak, the Department of Agriculture suggests aging not to exceed fifteen days at 34 degrees F., followed by freezing at 10 degrees F. below zero. The freezer locker patrons who do not have access to temperatures below zero can improve tenderness by first aging their beef at about 34 degrees F. and then freezing it at the lowest available temperature. The meat then should be wrapped in moisture-vapor-proof paper for storage. . . . Kansas agricultural experiment station experts have found that the right side of a steer is "significantly" more tender than the left side, but had no satisfactory explanation to offer for the finding.

CHEESE FOR BRITAIN

Cheese-making from sheep's milk is being developed in England by Czechoslovakian refugees, according to a foreign exchange. A factory has already been established and demonstrations given in various parts of the country. It has been shown that 138 Dorset Horn ewes produced 149 pounds of curd weekly. It is estimated that if only one-tenth of Britain's ewes were milked they could produce over 1,000,000 pounds of cheese a week, making the country independent of imported supplies.

CARCASS BREAKDOWN

The physical composition of a side of beef carcass from steers ranging from eleven to twenty-one months in age is given by the Department of Agriculture as follows (in percentages):

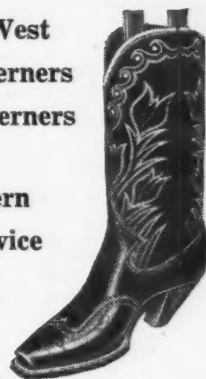
	Choice	Good	Com- mercial	Utility
Edible portion	83.96	81.93	79.79	78.72
Separate fat	30.99	24.48	20.37	15.00
Separable lean	52.97	57.45	59.42	63.72
Bone, ligament, and tendon	16.04	18.07	20.21	21.28

NO MORE TIRES

A joint statement issued by Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones and WPB Chief Nelson said that tires now on passenger cars are all that will be available until after the war. Mr. Jones recently told the House Banking and Currency Committee that the country had about 1,030,000 tons of rubber on hand, or nearly two years' supply for military and naval needs.

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LETTERS

CATTLE WINTERED WELL

Stock has gone through the winter in this part of the country in good shape. Ranchers and farmers are looking forward to a good spring. Some calves are coming early, but due to the fine weather we have been having the past two months it causes no hardship. Farmers and ranchers in Grant County are repairing the damage done by the devastating flood waters of the Gila and other streams last September. The New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau officials have been busy organizing units in the county. Every farmer and rancher should consider himself a part of the fighting forces and do everything possible to supply meat and agricultural products needed by the men in the front lines. It is impossible for the government to deal with every individual but through organizations they can let the farmers and ranchers know what is needed. Precipitation was plentiful in the Silver City area during December and a total of eleven inches of snow was recorded by the Gila forest office.

In the Black, Mogollon, Pinos Altos, and Burro mountain ranges the snowfall was heavy.—LORENE THREEPERSONS, Grant County, N. M.

HOLDING BREEDING STOCK

To date we have had a fine winter. We had a warm, wet fall with lots of growth in pasture. It didn't snow up till late, and there was no cold weather until Christmas. Then came steady cold, with thermometers around zero or below. So far, not a great deal of snow has come. Cattle are wintering well, with no loss to speak of. With ample feed, the tendency seems to be to hold the bulk of breeding stock with the expectation of high prices to continue for another year at least.—HUGH THORNTON, Okanogan County, Wash.

WANTS GRAZING BOARDS AIRED

I think the grazing boards ought to be aired out by the government once a year, as lots of abuse of the Taylor Grazing Law is going on. The big fellows are getting too much. They apparently have to hold their jobs. The Taylor Grazing Act would be perfect if it were abided by. Looking into it is the most

important thing that can be done for the stockman, except winning this war. Many abuses I think will be found. Don't go to the board; go to the stockmen. And don't go to the big stockmen; go to the two- to four-hundred-head people. The big stockman is getting what he wants.—JACK P. MATHES, Rio Blanco County, Colo.

Both big and little cattlemen are represented on the boards.—ED.

EXCELLENT CALIFORNIA CROPS

General livestock conditions throughout the Northwest are very favorable at this time, with the winter having been quite mild and only a small amount of feeding necessary. The cattle in the Snake River area are beginning to calve at this time and excellent calf crops are reported. Demand for good finished medium weight beef continues fairly strong. I extend best wishes for continued success for the association.—EDWARD HEINEMANN, Lincoln County, Wash.

SIMPLIFIED RECORDS

Enclosed please find check for \$2.50 for the ranchers' bookkeeping book. Have used them for the last two years and like them fine.—ELMER JOHNSON, Cody, Neb.

The bookkeeping book mentioned by Mr. Johnson is a simple one, can be posted by anyone, and meets the needs of ranches of 100 to 1,000 head. It is for sale by the American National Live Stock Association for \$2.50.—ED.

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ONLY ONE COLD SPELL

We have had a very good winter, only one cold spell for a couple of weeks, and have quite a lot of snow on the ground now. But there has been plenty of feed and all stock is wintering well, with plenty of good, cheap feed. Looks as if there would be a large feed carryover, if we don't have winter when we should have grass.—J. R. LEECH, Lincoln County, Neb.

RANGE FEED PLENTIFUL

Winter now is like fall. Very little snow. Not cold. Plenty of feed on range in most districts. Plenty of stock feed. Cattle, sheep, and horses are in excellent condition. Best wishes to the association. I greatly enjoy the PRODUCER.—LINN L. GIVLER, Powder River County, Mont.

TOO MUCH RAIN

Range feed has been somewhat held back by too much rainy weather with very little sunlight, causing little nourishment in the grass. The PRODUCER is a magazine hard to beat.—W. B. PERRY, Plumas County, Cal.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER